Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-232
Tuesday
3 December 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League's al-Majid Meets Saudi Ambassador

LD0212113991 Riyadh SPA in English 1931 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, Dec 1, SPA—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, conferred here today with Ambassador Tahir Radwan, the permanent representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the League.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest Arab developments, the next round of the Middle East peace talks to be held in Washington on Wednesday next and other matters of mutual interest.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Ambassador Radhwan expressed pride over the historical and unwavering positions of the kingdom towards the Palestinian question.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was and still [is] rendering moral and material support to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, he said.

He also lauded the pioneer role undertaken by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on Arab, Islamic and international levels.

Mubarak Praised on U.S.-Libyan Crisis

NC0112194191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1809 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Shaykh Tahir Radwan, Saudi Arabia's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's policy and his wisdom in handling the U.S.- Libyan crisis over the bombing of the Pan Am plane.

The Saudi delegate said President Mubarak's decisions are wise, reasonable, thorough, realistic, and free of slogans and one-upmanship.

Ambassador Tahir Radwan said he met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today and discussed with him Middle East peace efforts in light of the scheduled resumption of the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington on 4 December and the Arab League's role in containing the U.S.-Libyan crisis through diplomatic channels.

Ambassador Radwan affirmed that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has spared no effort in trying to resolve the Qatari-Bahraini dispute over two islands. He expressed his country's hope that an Arab solution will be found for this dispute. He said this issue will submitted to the Gulf Cooperation Council summit meeting in Kuwait on 23 December.

The Saudi official said that his country welcomed the Libyan Jamahiriyah's request that an international court investigate the U.S. plane incident.

Arab League Statement on Palestinian Anniversary

NC2811172091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat has greeted the struggle and steadfastness of the heroic Palestinian people and their brave intifadah, which lends support to their stand of securing their legitimate rights.

In a statement issued on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the General Secretariat said that the United Nations has chosen 29 November as the day to celebrate this anniversary. This signifies that the world community recognizes that the Palestinian people have legitimate rights, including their right to set up an independent state.

The statement said that this year's anniversary is of particular importance after the Palestinian people's representatives have been invited to attend the peace conference on equal footing with the other parties.

The statement warned Israel against using tactics to delay the process and therefore strip the peace process of its substance. It urged the world community to stand firmly against the Israeli prevarications, which endanger the region's security.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Leaves for U.S. After 10-Hour Delay

Sha'th Not Issued Visa

JN0312094091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks left for Washington Monday evening after a 10-hour delay caused by a wrangle over American visas for some of the advisers for the Palestinian negotiators.

It was not immediately known whether and what form of a compromise was reached between the Palestinians and the U.S. Administration, but all indications were that the Palestinians had resigned to accepting the American position over visas for any member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as adviser to the delegates.

An American Embassy spokesman declined to make any comment whatsoever.

Informed sources said at least two Palestinians who were expelled from the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities were granted visas but the applications of an unknown number of others—known members of the PLO—were pending. The two were identified as Taysir 'Aruri, a member of the Palestinian People's (communist) Party—a PLO faction—and Akram Haniyah, a

journalist who was ousted by the occupation authorities for alleged links with the PLO.

Among those who were not issued a visa Monday were Nabil Sha'th, a close advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, according to the sources. Others whose applications were pending included Mahmud Darwish, a renowned Palestinian poet, Mamduh Nawfal, a member of the Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and Samir Abu-Ghazalah, the PLO representative in Cyprus, they said.

The joint delegation was scheduled to leave mid-morning Monday, and the Jordanian negotiators and their advisers, headed by 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, waited at the airport for the Palestinian team, which, at one point in time, appeared to reject going to Washington until the advisers were given visas.

After hours of uncertainty, during which top-level consultations were held involving His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat, it was announced by Dr. 'Ashrawi around 6 p.m. that the Palestinians had decided to go ahead after resolving part of the problem.

"There are some cases that will be pursued and some were resolved," Dr. 'Ashrawi told a hastily-called press conference. In carefully worded phrases, Dr. 'Ashrawi presented a business-as-usual situation but it was evident, according to analysts, that the Palestinians had decided that it would be against their interests at this point in time to pursue the issue further.

"We are not going to Washington to place obstacles or waste time," said Dr. 'Ashrawi. "We are going (to Washington) with the same spirit as Madrid," where the Middle East peace conference opened Oct. 30.

In answer to a question, Dr. 'Ashrawi said there was no response whatsoever to the Palestinian request for protection against post- Madrid Israeli harassment.

If anything, she said, "they appear to send a message to the Palestinians: 'You have opted for peace and peace is going to be very costly... very expensive'." She said at least 12 Palestinians were killed by Israelis after the Madrid conference and several Palestinian homes were demolished.

Dr. 'Ashrawi who, in an opening statement, described the problem over U.S. visas as "technical issues," said later the wrangle was "a form of political pressure."

"There is a contradiction in the U.S. role as co-sponsor of the peace talks as its role as a host," she said. "This is a form of political pressure... that is why we have been calling for equal treatment and why we have been asking for a neutral European state as venue for the negotiations."

Dr. 'Ashrawi, a professor of English language at Bir Zayt University in the occupied West Bank, refused to reveal the names of the advisors involved in the row. "We have never discussed the names in public and I am not going to do it now," Dr. 'Ashrawi said, confirming that there was no problem involving the actual Palestinian negotiators and a "guidance committee"—of which she herself is a member—and "advisers" who are residents of the occupied territories.

Despite her reference to American "pressure," Dr 'Ashrawi affirmed that the delegation never received "a blanket assurance" that the entire Palestinian team would receive American visas.

Sources said the Palestinians had submitted a list of names to the U.S. Consulate in occupied Jerusalem and were told that the visas would be issued in Amman. But the U.S. Embassy in Amman informed the team late Sunday that it needed new applications," they said.

The U.S., which suspended an 18-month dialogue with the PLO in July 1990 after an aborted raid on Israel by one of the factions of the Tunis-based organisation, refuses visas for PLO members except on humanitarian grounds. The State Department reaffirmed this policy last week and said no PLO members would be given visas to accompany the Palestinian delegation as advisers.

"The Palestinians decided that it was not worth the effort to pursue the dispute with Washington," said an informed source, pointing out that it would have been a setback for the Palestinian approach if they were seen as adopting a hardline stand as Israel, which was maintaining its position Monday night that it was ready to go to Washington on Dec. 9 instead of Dec. 4 and that the talks should move to the Middle East after one or two meetings.

The row over visas was also seen as a climbdown by the PLO, which, in the face of being denied a direct role in the peace talks, is directing the delegation from behind the scenes.

"The crucial question was over the wisdom of the PLO leadership pressing hard in its effort to make a point and reaffirm its role," said the source. "Obviously such a stand would have undermined the entire process and they decided against it."

"They felt the issue was not substantive enough when compared with the host of topics—including their call for a freeze in Israeli settlements—they plan to discuss in Washington," added the source, who preferred anonimity.

At her press conference, Dr. 'Ashrawi, who refrained from any direct reference to any details of the wrangle, said the Palestinians were going ahead on the basis that the joint delegation will split and hold separate negotiations with the Israelis. "This is the logic and... it is stated in the letter of invitation" to Washington, she said.

She also left the door open for technical options in the event of a powerless, low-level Israeli delegation turns up in Washington to avert the scenario of empty Israeli

chairs at the negotiating table. "You will see what we will do" in such a situation, she said. "We don't want to speculate or discuss strategies."

Dr. 'Ashrawi, who described Jordanian-Palestinian coordination as excellent, said there was "a certain level of (overall) Arab coordination, but it is not perfect. There is room for improvement."

The Syrian and Lebanese delegations to the separate sets of bilaterals also headed for Washington Monday.

The Jordanian side to the joint delegation is headed by Dr al- Majali and included General 'Abd al-Hafiz Mar'i, Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Mundhir Haddadin, Ahmad Qatananni, Walid al-Khalidi, Talal al-Hasan, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Musa Burayzat, 'Awn al-Khasawinah, Anwar al- Khatib, Muhammad Bani-Hani and Nayif al-Qadi.

The Palestinian team is led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and includes Zakariyah al-Agha, Iliyas Frayj, Samih Kan'an, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Mamduh al-'Akir, Sami al-Kilani, Samir Abdallah, Furayh Abu-Middayn, Nabil al-Ja'bari, Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, Mustafa al- Natshah, and Ghassan al-Khatib. The "Guidance committee" of the Palestinians comprises Sari Nusaybah and Zahirah Kamal from the occupied territories in addition to Dr. 'Ashrawi, and Rashid al- Khalidi, Anis Qasim and Kamil Mansur, from the diaspora.

In a departure statement to Jordan Television, Dr al-Majali said: "We are going to Washington in response to the U.S. invitation extended to us to attend the second round of bilateral talks."

The first round of bilaterals were held in Madrid after the conference was adjourned.

Dr. al-Majali expressed hope that Israel would accept to attend the Washington talks and pointed out that if the Israelis did not turn up then the peace process would come to a halt. "In such a case," he added, "The world will know who caused the disruption in the peace process and who is placing obstacles in its way."

Dr. "Abd-al-Shafi told Jordan Television: "We are going to Washington with seriousness. The absence of the Israeli delegation at the talks will not prevent us from demanding our natural right to self-determination and the right to establish our Palestinian state."

Al-Tibi on Visa Appeal

TA0212170991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Today, the Palestinian delegation's arrival in Washington is in as much doubt as the Israelis' has been thus far. Despite the reports that the Palestinians refused to show up in Washington unless entry visas were issued to all the advisory council members, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who is close to the Palestinian leadership, says today that these are just rumors:

[Begin al-Tibi recording] Nothing will prevent the Palestinians from coming to the negotiating table, although they will naturally pursue the struggle to secure visas for everyone, particularly for the delegation's senior advisers. [end recording]

The Palestinians do not think the U.S. decision about the visas is final. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is also trying to persuade the Americans to grant Nabil Sha'th an entry visa, says Dr. al-Tibi:

[Begin al-Tibi recording] In an hour or two—after the start of the work day in the United States—President Bush is supposed to receive a telephone call from President Mubarak, who will try to persuade him to enable Dr. Nabil Sha'th and others—but especially Dr. Nabil Sha'th—to enter Washington. I and the others can see no reason for the U.S. Administration's refusal to allow Dr. Nabil Sha'th in the United States. We are very sorry about the refusal, which evidently stemsy from Dennis Ross. Dennis Ross and Baker's other blazer-wearers made a decision which we believe is mistaken. [end recording]

The contacts with the Americans aimed at securing the visas are still under way, and the Palestinians are promising: We will come anyway.

Nusaybah: Israeli Delay 'Tactical Maneuver'

JN0312083891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 91 p 15

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Dr. Sari Nusaybah, head of the technical team in the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has described the Israeli position toward the date of bilateral negotiations as a mere tactical maneuver. He said that the Israelis are trying to show a kind of independence from the U.S. Administration, but that they will eventually go.

He told AL-DUSTUR that the Palestinian delegation will go to Washington, "we will be present" to defend our rights and the aspirations of our people to freedom, independence, and the independent state, he said.

Dr. Nusaybah added: Head of the advisory council Faysal al- Husayni has stayed in Jerusalem to deal with a number of issues, and he may join the delegation in Washington if the need arises. He added: The negotiations will be a long process and the series of negotiations will require great efforts.

In an answer to a question he said: I think there are broad lines for a Middle East settlement that the cosponsors have agreed on, but as the Americans say, they do not want to impose anything. I can say that there is a

"general scenario" that we hope will be based on Resolution 242, which calls for the withdrawal from the occupied territories and the attainment of the rights of our Palestinian people.

He also said the Palestinian delegation will continue pressing for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and setting up the Palestinian state.

In reply to a question regarding a complete draft on the transitional period prepared by the delegation, he said: A working group that includes members from the Palestinian delegation and experts has worked out general ideas on the transitional period. In fact, we are studying all possibilities for confronting the expected Israeli positions and how to engage in the negotiations and face the other side.

Concluding his statement, he said: I am optimistic regarding the possibility of reaching a solution.

Commentary: Peace Process Seems At 'Standstill'

LD0212225191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Two days before the opening of the second round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington, the peace process seems at a standstill despite the utmost response of the Arab and Palestinian side to the peace efforts. This is despite support of the entire international community to the continuation of these efforts which are aimed at paving the way toward a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace based on the principles of international legitimacy and its resolutions. As the Arab and Palestinian delegations intend to go to Washington to participate in the peace talks, it was announced in Israel, after the weekly cabinet meeting, that Israel insists on its stand which rejects participation in the talks on the decided date, and also insists on calling for postponement of the talks until 9 December despite the stand of the two countries sponsoring the conference, the United States and the Soviet Union, which reject postponement of the talks.

The Israeli attempt to dictate the date of the talks to the Arab and Palestinian side and to the two sponsoring states is an issue which includes graver dimensions than presenting the dispute as merely a disagreement on a few days. During the past two days, Israeli officials have publicly expressed Israeli rejection of any U.S.-Soviet role in the talks. They emphasized that that role has ended with the convening of the peace conference. This problem exposes the reality of the existing disagreement on the nature of peace between Israel on the one hand, and the Arab and Palestinian side and the international community on the other, and whether this peace would be based on the principles and resolutions of the international legitimacy—which is also rejected by Israel. There is also the disagreement on the role which should be played by the international community, particularly the two states sponsoring the conference, in the course of the talks, which is categorically rejected by Israel.

If what is meant by Israeli insistence on dictating the date of the talks is to frustrate the convening of these talks and the entering of a new whirlwind of negotiations about procedural issues concerning the date and place of convening them, then this means another attempt to gain time and to evade the issues which should be dealt with at the peace talks. This is understood by the Arab and Palestinian side and also understood by the two sponsoring states who addressed the invitation to these talks. If this is the case, then the peace process is facing a real crisis, as we cannot imagine a serious and real peace process away from an effective international role and away from the resolutions of the international legitimacy. Therefore, passing the test of the date of the talks constitutes a criterion for the extent of seriousness of the two states sponsoring the conference in wishing to proceed with the peace process away from the dictations which cannot be understood except as a new attempt to obstruct the peace process using justifications and excuses which are old and new at the same time.

PFLP's Jibril—Mosad Responsible for Lockerbie

AU0312100091 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 3 Dec 91 p 3

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by Georg Possanner in Damascus; date not given: "Our Fight Is Aimed Against the Israelis Worldwide"]

[Text] [Possanner] The United States and Great Britain hold Libya responsible for the attack on the Pan Am plane 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988 and have thus exonerated Syria and you. Is Al-Qadhdhafi behind the attack?

[Jibril] I said at the time that neither I nor my group are responsible for the bloody deed. Nor does Libya have anything to do with the attack. It was Israel's secret service, Mosad.

[Possanner] What makes you think that?

[Jibril] That it cannot have been Libya is attributable to technical reasons. The bomb must have been taken on board at London's Heathrow Airport. According to the U.S.-British scenario, it was taken on board in Malta by Libyans, was brought to London via Frankfurt, and was then transferred to the Pan Am 103. Being an expert on explosives, I know that it is impossible to set a fuse very precisely. In addition, it is known that a group of 60 Israelis who had booked the flight did not go on board at the last minute.

[Possanner] But what interest could Mosad have had?

[Jibril] Israel intended to divert the West's attention from its brutal way of acting in the occupied Palestinian territories.

[Possanner] But, with due respect, that sounds ridiculous.

[Jibril] Not at all, if you consider the attacks in Cairo at the time of President Al-Nasir.

[Possanner] That is insufficient evidence. But what do you understand by terrorism, in what way is it different from the struggle for freedom?

[Jibril] Terrorism is the indefensible assassination of people.

[Possanner] Does that mean that taking hostages and hijacking planes is legitimate?

[Jibril] We have nothing to do with hijacking and strictly denounce it. That also holds true for the taking of hostages. However, if they are our enemies, why not?

[Possanner] Are the Israelis your only enemies, or are the Americans and Europeans also your enemies?

[Jibril] We are talking about the Israelis.

[Possanner] Is an Israeli your natural enemy?

[Jibril] Yes, because you must know that Israel is keeping 20,000 hostages in camps in the Negev desert and in Gaza without court proceedings. We have never taken foreigners hostage. Our efforts are aimed at Israelis worldwide.

[Possanner] What do you think about the current peace process?

[Jibril] There will only be peace if and when the Palestinians are allowed to go home.

[Possanner] Are Palestinians not negotiating on peace with Israel? Do you think they are traitors?

[Jibril] These persons were not selected by the Palestinian people. We are not going to give them trouble. However, if they accept and sign something that is not in the Palestinian people's interests, they will be considered and treated as traitors.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Diplomats Confirm SAARC Summit Slated 21 Dec

BK0212165091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0516 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 2 (AFP)—Bangladesh diplomats have confirmed that the aborted sixth South Asian summit will be held on December 21 in Sri Lanka, a local news agency reported here Monday.

The UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH (UNB), quoting unidentified diplomatic sources, said that India, Nepal and Bhutan, which decided not to go to the three-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) last month, had offered their "highest-level" presence in the one-day meet.

Foreign Ministry officials were not available for comment.

SAARC, founded in 1985, groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives.

UNB said the date was refixed after Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel visited New Delhi, Kathmandu, Thimpu and Dhaka.

Algeria

UK's Hogg Asks Bendjedid To Seek Libyan Action

LD0212200591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received today at the Presidential Palace Mr. Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The British minister gave the following statement to TV correspondent Mohamed Belachia:

[Begin Hogg recording in English with superimposed Arabic translation] I had lengthy talks with His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. I am happy with the time he gave me. We talked about a number of issues of mutual interest, the first of which was discussing the means to consolidate and deepen bilateral relations. We also talked about the Libyan problem and agreed to work toward solving it peacefully to preserve the relations which bind the Arab countries with the Western group, including the United States.

On this occasion I emphasized the importance of convincing [Libyan leader] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to hand over the two accused persons so as to put them on trial either in the United States or in Scotland. [end recording]

Saddam Husayn Envoy Arrives 2 Dec

JN0212193591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Algiers, 2 Dec (INA)—Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived here this evening.

The minister carries message from President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Bendjedid on fraternal ties between the two countries and on a number of Arab and international issues.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy earlier a conveyed message from his excellency to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on fraternal cooperation and ways to promote it in the interest of Arab issues.

Islamic Front Agrees on Election Principles

LD0212170191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, the head of the Provisional Executive Bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front, has said that direct negotiations are taking place with the Interior Ministry concerning the legislative elections expected to take place on 26 December. He added that the two sides have agreed on the basic principles.

Military Source Notes Attack Against Border Post

LD0212111791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Following the recent events at Oued Souf, an intensive search operation has been mounted to find the members of the armed gang. A military source in El Oued Province told journalists yesterday that rigorous measures have been taken on all levels in a bid to uncover members of the armed group involved in the attack on the Guemar border post at dawn on Friday [29 December]. He said that a number of suspects have been summoned for investigation and that the search operation will continue with the same vigor until members of the gang are unmasked.

The source said that one of the attackers who was wounded during the Guemar attack has been arrested and is recovering at a medical center.

Meanwhile, the general security situation in El Oued Province continues to be marked with extreme caution. Elements of the National People's Army and teams from the gendarmerie are carrying out a wide search operation at some crossing points, particularly the principal approaches of El Oued Province.

As for the attack itself, the military source pointed out that the 60-strong gang, which was equipped with conventional weapons and sharp implements, attacked the border post in groups from various directions. At the beginning of the attack the gang disrupted communication lines and assaulted the communications center guard. Three other guards were killed, and the body of one of them was mutilated.

In their surprise attack, the armed men adopted a well-formulated plan to seize a quantity of automatic weapons and live ammunition. It was also noted that they had had military training.

Army Detains 14 Accused in Attack

LD0212131291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Defense Ministry has announced that 14 persons accused of attacking the border post in Guemar in El Oued Province have been detained. APS, reporting the news, said that some of the ammunition and weapons captured by the attackers has also been found.

Ghozali Addresses Seminar on Economic Reforms

LD0112093191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Ahmed Ghozali has reiterated that resorting to use of underground resources is the only factor that will permit the revival of the Algerian economy and that failure to increase our resources will lead us directly into catastrophe. The prime minister said this during a reforms seminar organized by the

Algerian Financiers and Accountants Union in conjunction with the AL-WATAN newspaper.

The prime minister's address covered the management of Algerian foreign debts. But what does this mean to Prime Minister Ghozali, and what are the ways to ease the burdens of these debts? Here is a report by colleague Rabih Hallese:

[Hallese] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Ahmed Ghozali believes we have one of two options to tackle this matter: either cut down the cost of servicing the debt or increase Algeria's production capacity.

The solution, as far as Algeria is concerned, lies in increasing capacities, meaning increasing revenue, increasing petroleum production capacity by permitting foreigners to join in already discovered as well as future oil fields by granting them the so-called right of entry into the oil fields.

The new thing in the statements by Ghozali is the declaration that he does not object to the policy of rescheduling debts; indeed, he considers this rescheduling essential although he does not consider it sufficient in itself. This is because the current situation demands fresh funds [words indistinct]. Whatever they may be, the reforms will remain mere reforms on paper because of the nature of the inactive current production infrastructure.

Prime Minister Ghozali concluded by affirming that failure to increase Algeria's inherent capacities will inevitably lead to a catastrophe. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Deputies Ousted Over Drug Trafficking Charges

NC3011163991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The People's Assembly has decided by a majority of 421 votes to terminate the membership of Deputy 'Ayid Sulayman Salmi, also known as Abu-Sabil, who represented the second constituency in Ra's Sudr, Sinai. It also decided by a majority of 406 votes to terminate the membership of Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Jawwad 'Abd-al-Rahman, also known as Rahum al-'Umayri, who represented the first constituency in Marsa Matruh. The speaker of the People's Assembly announced that their seats are now vacant. The assembly had earlier given each of the two deputies the opportunity to submit a defense before the vote was taken. The speaker also announced the verdict passed by a joint general, constitutional, and legislative committee on five other members: Ibrahim Mahfuz, Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh Kamil, Ahmad Mahir Mustafa, 'Abd-al-Ghani Hulaywah, and Fayiz Abu-al-Wafa. The verdict called for keeping the case of these deputies on file in light of the fact that the socialist public prosecutor's investigations did not reach conclusive results on their alleged drug trafficking.

The speaker added that today's People's Assembly decisions involved several parliamentary conventions and formulated criteria by which a People's Assembly member can maintain his seat. He added that these decisions also specify the rules of qualification, which include trustworthiness and integrity. He explained that the assembly's decision to terminate membership rested on moral grounds and not political reasons. He pointed out that the People's Assembly's acceptance of Deputy Muhammad Mubarak's resignation does not mean he is exonerated of the charges leveled against him, and that the evidence related to his case still exists if this individual wishes to run for a People's Assembly seat in the future.

Committee Praises Mubarak on U.S.-Libyan Issue

NC0212121691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—The Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly has voiced its support and backing for the sincere efforts being made by President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian diplomacy to contain the crisis between the United States, Britain, and Libya.

In a meeting today presided over by committee chairman Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, the committee called on all the parties concerned to observe self-restraint and to cooperate to find a solution to this crisis in line with international legitimacy and without the use of force. The committee emphasized that Egypt rejects all types of terrorism, upholds the principles of international law, and cares for the safety and security of the fraternal Libyan people.

Commentary: Israel 'Not Serious' About Peace

NC0112153791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Peace Between Israeli Maneuvers and International Legitimacy"]

[Text] Prior to the Madrid talks we said that Israel, which had been forced to participate in the peace conference, would procrastinate, maneuver, and attempt to circumvent the conference. We warned that it would exploit procedural matters to obstruct the conference. Actually, our expectations were rather optimistic. When the Israeli Government decided to show its dismay and opposition to the date and venue of the second round of the Arab-Israeli talks, it issued an official statement announcing its objection to the 4 December date for the Washington talks and proposing the alternative date of 9 December. Many people were baffled by this Israeli statement because postponing the talks for five days could only be explained as a polite way of hindering the peace conference or even completely undermining the second round of talks.

When Israel realized that the U.S. Administration insists on holding the conference at the set date and place, the Israelis said they will send a lower-level political delegation to join the other delegations on the specified date, and if the United States wanted them to do so, they would send a high-level delegation to Washington on 9 December. Such maneuvering cannot produce real results. While Israel has grown accustomed to drawn-out methods to obtain the best results in negotiations, we believe that there is no time for such maneuvers as long as the facts are clear and the relevant international resolutions are frank about the issues, particularly as international and U.S. officials have fully studied the Middle East file. Israel also submitted many solutions and proposals after 1967 and up until the 1973 October war.

This Israeli attitude undoubtedly reveals several important facts to international public opinion. First, Israel is not serious about peace. In the view of some Israeli intellectuals, peace is a highly explosive matter that can undermine the Israeli domestic front, which demonstrates solidarity and unites only against so-called threats to the Jewish identity, the Hebrew state, and the promised land. If peace comes, all these alleged dangers, which are promulgated by Jewish fanatics inside and outside Israel in order to obtain financial aid and other support, will collapse and the Jewish state will be fragmented and in time be lost amid the dense Arab populations.

Second, Israel still imagines it can dictate the peace terms, that it has the dominant will to force the region to submit to its ideas and schemes, and that the Israeli Government must have the last word on the form that the dialogue with the Arabs will take, the level of negotiations, and the meeting venues. It believes that the dialogue must not exceed the limits of the well-known no's: rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state, dividing Jerusalem or giving up the West Bank and Gaza, and clinging to Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Third, Israel believes that negotiations with the Arabs must revolve primarily around the essential issues of water, economic cooperation, arms limitations, and the fate of refugees. Thereafter, the negotiators can discuss separately the bilateral issues and disputes between each Arab country and Israel.

This Israeli view completely contradicts the Arab view, which wants the negotiations to focus on resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict by ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in return for opening a new chapter in relations and replacing war with peace in the Middle East.

Therefore, while participating in the peace negotiations, Israel has no real wish to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. Rather, it seeks to get everything it wants, opposes all those who resist its schemes, and accuses them of anti-Semitism, as it accused President Bush.

Nevertheless, what Israel forgets is that the attainment of a peaceful settlement no longer hinges on what it wants or what any single party seeks. It instead is governed by the rules of logic, human rights, and international legitimacy.

Editor Criticizes Mubarak's Strasbourg Speech

NC3011084591 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Nov 91 p 6

[Article by editor in chief 'Adil Husayn: "The President's Latest Decisions Mean We No Longer Live in the Egypt We Know"]

[Excerpts] What we had expected took place. What the president announced in his speech on 3 November was intentional. During his speech, President Mubarak set aside his written text and gave an impromptu speech, which sounded spontaneous, to explain his policies. We understood from that speech that the state has agreed to commit itself to the regional accords that the United States is promoting, including the unilateral reduction of Arab weapons and the establishment of economic relations in the region under Israel's command before the negotiations even started and without Israel's declaration of any intention to withdraw.

Following that speech, we said that President Mubarak's words were too serious to be taken as an impromptu chat. Much evidence later surfaced proving that the president meant every word he said. The first evidence of this was his interview with Israeli television, which we referred to in the last issue of AL-SHA'B and the text of which was never published in Egypt. The second, clearest, and most explicit evidence was the president's speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. It reminded me of what late President al-Sadat did when he told the People's Assembly in 1977, in a way that seemed spontaneous, that he was ready to go anywhere in the world, even to the Knesset, for the sake of peace. At the time, the people, and even Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi, imagined this as just a slip of the tongue. Then it turned out that the whole thing was arranged, and the man actually went to Jerusalem, and you know the rest.

Going back to the Strasbourg speech, we stop at one paragraph toward the end. After making a clear reference to the need to expand cooperation between Europe and the Middle East, the president made a specific proposal. He suggested the establishment of "a Mediterranean forum which would be expanded to include all of Europe and the Middle East as a focal point for dialogue and interaction between officials and nonofficials, professionals and intellectuals, between the different strata of our societies."

What does this proposal mean? It simply means that the Egyptian state is officially requesting (now!), and immediately, the establishment of regular relations between some Arab countries and Israel to discuss cooperation projects and programs. What else is left? The negotiations have ended before they began, and we gave Israel

and the United States all they are asking for without territories and without Jerusalem. We thought that this capitulation (or what is called security arrangements) would come at the last stage after we had obtained something in return, but it came at the first stage and in exchange for nothing.

The president's proposal suggested starting with the Mediterranean countries, where the effective opposition is limited to Syria and Libya. Syria refuses to take part in any regional agreements with Israel before withdrawal, while Libya rejects all the ongoing negotiations. But other than these two countries all the European countries overlooking the Mediterranean will accept the proposal (and it certainly came as no surprise to them), and it seems that the other Arab countries (except for Syria and Libya) also will accept it. This forum for dialogue will act as a means of pressure against the Syrian position, and the pressure and siege actions will increase should the current criminal schemes being concocted to overthrow the nationalist regime in Libya (under the claim of bombing a civilian aircraft) succeed. [passage omitted]

According to the Strasbourg speech, the Mediterranean group is just a lead-up to a wider one that will link the entire Middle East to Europe through dialogue and ties. In the past we used to talk about the Arab-European dialogue, but now we are talking about a Mideast-European dialogue. The fact is that it is not even about the Middle East. Let us frankly say that it is an Atlantic bloc, under the command of Israel and Turkey and with the participation of the Arab states that accept it, to strike at the Arab common strategy and the Islamic renaissance. The reason they started with the Mediterranean countries and left talk about the Middle East for a later stage is that several Arab and Islamic Middle Eastern countries (Iraq, Iran, Yemen, and Sudan, in addition to Syria and Libya) will have to be excluded from this Middle East group. This reveals the nature of the whole process. But most important of all, Saudi Arabia is hesitant at the moment. Therefore, it will take some time before moving on to the Middle East group, and during that time, they will try to topple the regimes opposed to them and will help Saudi Arabia overcome the sources of its fears and reluctance.

Official Egyptian policy is following the path of al-Sadat, who weakened the Arab and Islamic nation and served the U.S.-Israeli scheme beyond their expectations. Al-Sadat wanted to convince the United States that he could monopolize Egyptian decisions and that he could use Egypt's weight and capabilities in the region to carry out everything that the United States wanted and more. To those who imagine, with good intentions, that this policy was smart and shrewd and was to persuade the United States to give Egypt a prominent position in the region and become its accredited agent, we remind all those who believe this that despite all that al-Sadat did, he did not achieve any of this. Instead, they accorded him glory while he was in their service, and when his role was over they told him toward the end of his regime that it was time to go. When he did go, no Egyptian mourned him.

Official Egyptian policy is now following al-Sadat's path precisely and is declaring that it is capable of accomplishing what the Arab masses are rejecting and what the other Arab regimes, which are described as moderate and friendly to the Americans, are reluctant to do. [passage omitted]

The current policy of serving the United States will not give Egypt a regional role among its peoples. If it is only a matter of the $20 billon we are going to gain, it will be spent like the other funds, and Egypt will remain (as the enemies want it to be) weak, looking for handouts in exchange for treacherous and despicable services. [passage omitted]

Was President Mubarak authorized to make such decision alone? We asked this question repeatedly during the Gulf war, and we ask it again today following the president's latest speeches. Who did the president consult with and who agreed with him on his decisions? We suspect (as far as we know) that the proposal to establish the Mediterranean group, and the Middle East group that will follow it, has not been discussed at any institution. The lengthy speech that the president gave at the opening session of the People's Assembly made absolutely no reference to this (but the People's Assembly speaker was invited to hear it for the first time in Strasbourg!)

This nation, Mr. President, will not accept this Middle Eastern affiliation at the expense of its Arab and Islamic loyalty. It is the right of this nation to be at the center of events and to take part in making decisions. This country belongs to us all and we cannot wake up one morning to suddenly find ourselves in a different country! [passage omitted]

Libya

Foreign Liaison Bureau Issues Lockerbie Statement

LD0212174191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Statement issued by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; date and place not given]

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Dec (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following statement:

1. The U.S. Administration and the British Government issued a statement dated 27 November 1991 in connection with the regrettable incident which led to the crash of Pan Am flight 103 over the village of Lockerbie. This statement emphasized a premeditated intention to achieve political goals aimed at the people's political system in the Jamahiriyah. The use of the media as a way of addressing each other does not help solve problems between states. It is a way of dealing with each other which cannot be adopted in international relations,

because dialogue through diplomatic channels is a better and more successful method. Because the British-U.S. joint statement jumped to judging, demonstrating a premeditated intention to commit aggression and imposing determined conditions, it therefore is not based on international legitimacy or international law and contradicts the UN Charter. The decision to accuse, in the incident, two Libyans of blowing up Pan Am flight 103 is not based on any proof or evidence, and their advance indictment through the media and without any fair trial is contrary to what is agreed upon in all constitutions and human rights charters, which stipulate that: "The accused is innocent until proven guilty." This is a mere accusation which the U.S. Administration and the British Government are trying to convince the world, through statements and the media, is a definitive indictment and verdict.

2. As for the Pan Am flight 103 incident, if the issue concerned the application of the law according to judicial procedures, then the Jamahiriyah considers that the investigations of the issue "when it concerns Libyans" should be carried out according to the procedures of the penal code issued in 1953 and through a Libyan examining magistrate. The Jamahiriyah accepts that judges from the United States and Britain could participate with the Libyan examining magistrate in the investigations to ensure the impartiality and correctness of the procedures. International organizations, human rights societies, and the families of the victims could also send observers or lawyers to attend the investigations. "These countries or any other quarters which request it have the right to examine the progress of the investigations." The examining magistrate will take into consideration the investigations of the incident which were previously carried out, including the investigations which were carried out in Scotland and in the District of Columbia. The concerned authorities in the Jamahiriyah will completely cooperate with the Scottish and U.S. investigators to reach the truth. On the other hand, the Jamahiriyah announces, however, that it accepts the formation of a neutral international investigative committee to handle these investigations.

Adopting either of the two aforementioned measures prevents the jumping to conclusions and sentencing of individuals contrary to the principle recognized in all international constitutions and human rights documents, which specify that the accused is innocent until proven guilty. But if the issue concerns political disagreements between the Jamahiriyah on the one hand and the United States and the United Kingdom on the other, "which is what we think is the case," then the investigations of these disagreements should be based on the UN Charter, which forbids aggression or the threatening of aggression and which calls for settling disagreements by peaceful means, including negotiations. If the direct dialogue is difficult because of the absence of diplomatic relations between the Jamahiriyah and the United States and United Kingdom "as a result of their unilateral severance of these relations," then the dialogue could take place through another side or sides or within the context of the United Nations.

3. Rejecting the two aforementioned methods and resorting to the means of statements and the use of information organs will not only wrongly and inaccurately influence public opinion; it will on the contrary be an influential factor upon investigators, judges, and the accused alike because it will prevent investigators from carrying out their investigation under neutral and impartial conditions. Furthermore, it will prevent judges from holding a just trial and will not allow the accused to have a just and fair trial, a matter which contravenes basic human rights. On the other hand, however, issuing statements which amount to warnings and imposing conditions are clear violations of the UN Charter. Therefore, this is a procedure which cannot be accepted or adopted in relations between sovereign states.

4. The Jamahiriyah believes, through the issuance of this statement, that it has made clear its position regarding the Pan Am flight 103 incident. It furthermore holds fast to the implementation and to the rule of law without prejudice for those who have been indicted, and for the rights of the unfortunate victims, their families, and kinfolk. It moreover holds fast to the recognized norms of international relations without any prejudice to the sovereignty of any country.

Intelligence Chief Pledges Lockerbie Cooperation

AU0212164091 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Paris, Dec 2 (AFP)—Libya's new spymaster pledged Monday that he would improve his country's image, tainted by its alleged implication in the bombing of two Western airliners, and revamp the Libyan secret service.

Colonel Yusuf 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Dibri said he would cooperate closely with Western intelligence services investigating attacks on a Pan American World Airways and a French UTA plane in 1988 and 1989. "We must all dissipate these accusations of terrorism," al-Dibri said in a telephone interview with AFP, adding that Libya's office of overseas security would be reformed.

Libya has rejected accusations by Britain, the United States and France that it was involved in the downing of the Pan Am aircraft over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the UTA aircraft over Niger, and has turned down requests that it hand over two Libyan suspects.

Al-Dibri said he would investigate "all accusations brought against us" and investigate whether members of his office were undermining the body to harm the image of Libya and its leader.

He said he would also probe ties between Libyan intelligence officials, the Soviet KGB secret police and Eastern European and Arab intelligence agencies.

Al-Dibri announced that he would visit the Soviet Union next week, and possibly Western countries, including France, "so they can help me know the truth because what we have been blamed for is inconsistent with our policy, our values and our customs."

"Attacks (against aircraft) cannot be attributed to intelligence agencies," he said.

Al-Dibri said he would "ask Western intelligence agencies to cooperate." "We propose to make the entire region, the whole world, a haven of peace and security, and that all intelligence agencies work together," he said.

Al-Dibri was appointed on November 25.

He said Libya "knows who is responsible for the (country's) distorted image." "Unfortunately, even the White House believes the rumors spread by its services and acts accordingly."

Al-Dibri said Libya had "suffered both from colonialism and terrorism" and had always been opposed "to Marxism-Leninism." "We have made huge efforts to avoid the spread of communism," he said.

Mauritania

Authorities Refuse To Legalize Islamic Party

LD2211130891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The Mauritanian authorities have refused to recognize an Islamic party by invoking clauses of the Constitution which ban the establishment of religious parties.

New 'Black African-Inspired' Party Legalized

LD2711001191 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] A first in Mauritania comes with the recognition of a black African -inspired party. Its name is the Party for Liberty, Equality, and Justice. It is headed by a former minister of ex-President Ould Daddah.

Morocco

King Receives Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary

LD0212213591 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Among today's royal activities His Majesty King Hassan II received at the Royal Palace in Marrakech this evening Mr. Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Sudan

SPLA Factions End Truce, Resume Hostilities

AB0212190391 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Nairobi, Dec 2 (AFP)—A ceasefire agreed by two warring rebel factions in southern Sudan has been violated, one of the rebel groups said Monday, accusing the other faction of attacking its forces.

Representatives of a breakaway faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said forces loyal to the movement's founder, John Garang, had attacked their fighters last week in Garang's hometown of Bor, southeastern Sudan, captured by the splinter group last month. [passage omitted]

The breakaway group, led by Commanders Riek Mashar Teny-Dhurgon and Lam Akol, formerly close aides of Garang, said in a statement issued here that "Garang's forces, supported by heavy artillery bombardment, attacked our forces in Bor."

"Hostilities have now resumed," said the statement from the group's delegates to the talks here, adding that they were "still committed to the continuation of the talks taking place in Nairobi."

Representatives of Garang's group could not immediately be reached to comment, and it was unclear whether the reconciliation talks would continue.

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Official

EA3011212091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 30 (SUNA)—The foreign minister, 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, met Saturday the (?adviser) to his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari, who is currently visiting the country. The two officials reviewed the progressing bilateral relations between Iran and Sudan and means to boost them further. They have also discussed the current situation and developments at the Arab and Islamic arenas, as well as the regional and international issues where the two sides share identical viewpoints.

Khonsari has delivered a message to the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, General 'Umar al-Bashir, from the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Iran Financing $300 Million in PRC Arms for Sudan

PM0212140991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Nov 91 p 4

[Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad report: "Iran Purchases $300 Million of Chinese Arms for Sudan"]

[Text] London—Informed sources have emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Iran has concluded a deal

with China to purchase $300 million of arms and fighter aircraft for the Sudanese Government, and that a team of Chinese Air Force experts has arrived in Sudan to train military personnel to pilot the fighter aircraft to be delivered to the Sudanese Government.

According to the sources, the arms deal with China was signed originally by the government of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi before it was toppled by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's coup. With the continuation of the war in the south, the al-Bashir government sought to complete the deal with China and paid a limited sum as a first payment. It then asked Iran to finance the remainder of the deal, and Iran agreed to do so recently.

Al-Bashir Discusses Privatization, Egyptian Ties

NC2811101291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], has announced that he is willing to send an RCC member as his personal envoy to meet with Egyptian officials at any time Cairo specifies to hold talks on developing relations between the two countries and establishing joint projects.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, al-Bashir said that Sudan's relationship with Egypt is not up to the desired level but it is still better than it was.

The Sudanese leader asserted that certain individuals and forces tried to drive a wedge between the two countries by spreading rumors and by exaggeration and incitement. He noted that this created a dark cloud that adversely affected relations between the two countries but that this cloud has now lifted and the situation is better. He said he hopes that the relationship with Egypt will develop in all sectors. Referring to a recent visit made by a group of Sudanese officials to Cairo, he announced: "I am ready to go there myself." On Sudan's internal policy and the future of the ruling system, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir told AL-AHRAM that a national council will be formed during the country's independence day celebrations in early January. He said this can be regarded as a parliament.

As for the economic situation, the Sudanese leader said that during the convening of the national economic congress, the revolution drew up a program for economic reform that will be implemented over three years with the aim of achieving comprehensive development, building a sound economy, and selling off institutions, companies, and factories that belong to the government and the public sector.

Al-Bashir added that many food, leather, tanning, and other factories have already been sold to the private sector and that hotels, several companies, and banks are being sold off now. He pointed out that major corporations such as the Sudan Air Transportation Company, its maritime company, and the telecommunications, post, electricity, and water enterprises will be offered for sale to the private sector.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Receives UK Official Hogg

LD0212234691 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Hamed Karoui, the prime minister, this evening received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, with whom he discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, in addition to matters of common interest.

Karoui Receives Syrian Vice President

LD0212182691 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui received at noon today at the government palace in the Casbah Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad, in the presence of Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia. Rif'at al-Asad said that the audience was an opportunity to exchange opinions on issues of common interest and to emphasize the importance of Arab dialogue and the need to consolidate it through continuing meetings. He said that his meeting with the prime minister promoted the discussion of means for consolidating joint Arab action.

Saddam Inspects Scene of Relatives' Death

NC0212162291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] A fedayeen group of opposition youths in Baghdad have attacked the residence of some relatives of Saddam Husayn with hand grenades. It is located under the [word indistinct] office, in the Al-Jadiriyah area in Al-Karradah al-Sharqiyah. Six people in the building were killed. Among them were two nephews of Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and the brothers of 'Izzat Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid, tyrant Saddam Husayn's personal bodyguard. Authorities immediately arrested more than 40 people and began questioning them. Tyrant Saddam Husayn then personally inspected the scene of the incident.

General Reportedly Executed for Spying for Kurds

NC0212162591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The authorities of the tyrant Saddam have carried out the death sentence against Brigadier General 'Ali Husayn al-Muhammadawi, alias 'Ali al-'Irbid. Brig. Gen. al-'Irbid was arrested on charges of passing information to the Kurds in the north.

A source close to the authorities of the defeated regime said the body of the brigadier general has not yet been delivered to his family. A wave of indignation and disturbances spread among the al-Mahmud tribes in the Maysan governorate as soon as the news of the execution was heard.

Disagreement Over Washington Peace Talks Viewed

JN0212194291 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1620 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Terrorist Prime Minister Shamir of the Zionist entity continues to hold out for 9 December rather than the day set by Washington for the bilateral talks with the Arab parties to the settlement [al-taswiyah] conference. Some delegations actually have gone to Washington for the talks. The Zionist entity insists on postponement, but Washington asserts that the talks will be held on schedule. Which of the two parties will show deference to the other? Will Shamir relent or are we seeing a fresh U.S.-Zionist charade they expect the Arabs to buy, a game in which a United States less than tilted toward Israel is seen applying pressure on Shamir, and therefore is qualified to play the role of referee and judge in the coming talks?

Why does Shamir want the talks postponed, and what are the Zionists and the Americans out to gain from this game? Shamir's choice of 9 December was not coincidental. 9 December marks the advent of the fifth year of the intifadah, an anniversary to be observed by our people and the Arab masses. It will be a special national day, when the intifadah will be properly celebrated by escalation. By proposing 9 December for the talks, Shamir sought to empty the day of its militant content and divert attention from what will be taking place in our occupied land to what is taking place in Washington. If Shamir fails to have his way and the United States gets the Washington talks convened on time, the Arab parties will be seen to have scored spurious gains, and by way of paying the price, they will be required to concede Zionist designs on Palestine and Arab territory. What does Washington mean by saying that the talks will be convened even if Israel fails to show up? Will the Arabs negotiate with themselves? Or is Washington authorized to negotiate on behalf of Tel Aviv? We put these questions to the Arab delegations to the settlement talks. Our masses, who are waging the battle of the intifadah, know the answers to these questions and are not awaiting an answer from anyone. When will the Arab delegations announce that they have seen through the U.S.-Zionist game?

Minister Hammadi, Soviet Envoy Discuss Media Ties

JN0212201991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi received Soviet Ambassador in Baghdad Viktor Posuvalyuk today. They reviewed media relations between the two countries and issues of mutual concern.

Iranian Official Praises Cooperation on Refugees

JN0212165691 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[By Lahib 'Abd-al-Khaliq in Baghdad]

[Text] Farhad Shihabi, head of the Iranian delegation to the Iraqi-Iranian talks on refugees, has said that the talks between the two sides showed that the Iraqi Government deeply appreciates the humanitarian circumstances of the refugees. He said the talks have facilitated many issues previously agreed upon between the two countries.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Shihabi said the Iranian delegation's visit is part of efforts to implement the cooperation agreement signed between the two countries. He said a 10-man committee was established to visit the Iranians in their places of residence in Iraq and see if they wish to return. These remaining Iranians, he said, are part of those who fled to Iraq at the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war. They are governed by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which allows people to seek shelter in other countries in the event of disasters and wars. Iraq hosted those Iranians throughout the war and gave them compensation and relief assistance. He said the Iraqi Government secured all their needs and enabled them to live in good conditions. They told us, the Iranian official added, that Iraq has continued to care about them.

Shihabi said that Iraq's care and cooperation was also felt by the Iranian delegation, which received all facilities during its visit to Baghdad and al-Ramadi. He explained that most of the refugees had been living in villages and towns near the border with Iraq. What we are accomplishing now, the Iranian official said, is part of a major cooperation program Iraq and Iran are seeking to achieve. He explained that the program is based on understanding the humanitarian circumstances through which the two countries have passed. We hope that this cooperation will continue at this high level and deep understanding, he added.

According to a Foreign Ministry source, the number of Iranian refugees during the Iraq-Iran war reached 50,000. For more than 12 years, Iraq has provided residence and accommodation facilities and distributed compensation and ration cards without help from any international organization or any foreign government.

Oil Minister Comments on Turkish Pipeline

NC0212175591 Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish 27 Nov 91 p 5

[Ahmet Coskunaydin report: "We Do Not Have a Problem With Turkey"]

[Text] Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hammadi al-Hiti made a number of disclosures to GUNAYDIN regarding oil relations with Turkey, saying that he is convinced that the Demirel government will maintain a reasonable approach on developments. Al-Hiti said no problems exist between Turkey and Iraq, noting that Iraq expects the fraternal Turkish people to be concerned about the difficult problems facing the Iraqi people. Speaking to a GUNAYDIN correspondent in Baghdad, al-Hiti said: "We have no problems with BOTAS [Pipeline and Petroleum Transport Corporation]. The level of our relations is excellent, as has always been the case. We have, however, not been directly informed by the Turkish side about the latest charges for transportation. The information we have in hand is based on what was disclosed by the United Nations and reported by a number of newspapers."

Agreement Is Valid

Al-Hiti mentioned that the Turkish-Iraqi pipeline agreement is valid until 2007, adding: "A problem should be discussed immediately if it emerges between the two sides. However, both sides agree that the pipeline agreement is still in effect so no problems exist."

"We Expect a Call"

The Iraqi oil minister said that his country is going through a very difficult time due to the economic embargo. He said that Iraq will buy pharmaceutical drugs and foodstuffs with the funds it will raise by selling its oil. Al-Hiti said that Iraqi officials are eagerly awaiting a call from Turkey informing Baghdad that "the pipeline is ready to be used." Turkey unilaterally closed the pipeline.

Al-Hiti recalled that Turkey and Iraq cooperated as fraternal countries for many centuries, saying: "The pipeline directly concerns Turkey and Iraq; it does not concern the United Nations or any other parties. We hope that the pipeline will be allowed to continue its services. We plan to double Iraq's production soon. Naturally, we hope to sell the oil we produce through this pipeline."

Al-Hiti noted that Iraq has always kept its doors open to Turkish companies and has never regretted that decision, noting: "Our doors are open to Turkish companies which wish to work with us. They will remain open in the future as well. We are ready to cooperate with them in every field."

Claiming that they have not received any information from the Turkish side to date, al-Hiti asserted: "The valid provisions of the agreement and charges on transportation are in question right now. Nevertheless, we may debate a proposal to raise the transportation charges. We may even agree to such a proposal, that is, if the Turkish side makes that type of suggestion. However, all we really want is the reactivation of our mutual relations."

Al-Hiti complained that Iraq has received no information from Turkey to date, saying that Iraqi officials are waiting to hear from Turkish authorities. He asserted that they are convinced that Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who is an experienced statesman, will adopt a much more reasonable approach on the matter and accordingly make assessments.

Tehran Radio—Turkish Air Attacks on Kurds

NC2911141391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Turkish Armed Forces have bombed various areas north of Zakho in Iraq. This has been disclosed by the Democratic Party of Kurdistan spokesman in London. He said that the Turkish Air Force units have bombed four Kurdish villages north of Zakho.

Meanwhile, Turkey has disclosed that the target of the air attacks were the positions manned by the opponents of the Turkish regime.

Regime Forces Continue Buildup Around Kifri

NC2911172391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The regime's forces are continuing their buildup around the town of Kifri. Division 51, also known as the Sari al-Jabal Forces, deployed in (Sayyid Midri) Village on 27 November.

The regime's forces in the past few days have been shelling the town of Kifri and the surrounding areas, cutting off the Kifri- (Sayyid Midri) road.

(Mayjul) District, meanwhile, is coming under daily artillery bombardment. The regime's forces have threatened to cut off Kifri's power supply.

The regime's inhuman practices have compelled a large number of people to leave Kifri, (Sumud), and Klar and to take refuge in the areas of Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, and Banjwin. There they are suffering from harsh weather, which threatens the lives of many of these displaced people, especially the children, women, and elderly.

Republican Guards Attack Village

NC0112185791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has announced that several companies of the Iraqi Republican Guards, backed by heavy artillery and helicopters, advanced toward (Mawjuz) village near (Frandari) in Qada' Daquq in northern Iraq. The village's inhabitants fought off the attack and repulsed it after a battle of a few hours, during which 70 Republican Guards and 20 of the popular forces were killed.

Last week, the Iraqi forces shelled two villages in the Aski Kalak area with heavy-caliber artillery, forcing the inhabitants to flee. The Iraqi forces then entered the two villages, destroyed several houses, and robbed others.

SAIRI Leader on Need for Saddam Removal

NC2911151391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Reporters from Iraqi opposition newspapers published outside the homeland conducted a pool interview in mid-November with his eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. The interview focused on developments of the Iraqi issue and Iraqi opposition activities in the present extraordinary circumstances. The interview is of such importance that we will now broadcast its first part:

Asked what he thought of the criminal regime's current situation, his eminence said: There are many signs and indications of a crisis within the Saddamite's humiliated regime; proved by the liquidation campaign in the Army ranks, including the removal of elements belonging to antiregime tribes. [break in transmission] The Army is preoccupied by crises created by the regime in the north and south, the aim of which is to overshadow the country's strangling economic crisis. This crisis negatively affects the situation at home. The people are led to believe that security issues form the country's only real problem.

On political frameworks through which Iraqi opposition groups must operate, His Eminence al-Hakim said: Among these, there must be unanimity on:

1. The need to remove the criminal Saddamite regime.
2. The need for people to decide on their self-determination. This could be achieved by opening the doors to free elections.
3. The need for people's freedoms to be guaranteed. All legitimate freedoms directly related to the people's interests must not be banned.
4. The need to establish positive and constructive relations with countries neighboring Iraq and with the international community, thus serving the Iraqi people's interests, unity, independence, and sovereignty over their territories.

Our people have suffered a lot through tension with regional countries and the world. They also suffered from the destructive wars brought about by the criminal regime. Stability and calm must prevail in the region and our relations with the world must be based on mutual interests.

10th Anniversary of Martyrs Day Commemorated

JN0112162491 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 1, INA—Iraq today observed the 10th anniversary of the Martyr Day, the day when Iranian troops on this day in 1981 killed scores of Iraqi soldiers captured in one of the battles of the Iraq-Iran war.

Marking this occasion, the ministries and government departments and popular and vocational organizations and unions have organized special programs for commemorating the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives in defence of Iraq's sovereignty and the Arab nation.

Life throughout the country came to a standstill for five minutes in the early hours of today and the first hours of the working day and at school and universities will be dedicated for talking about the role of martyrs in the al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles.

A 21-gun salvo will be fired at dusk today in Baghdad and all other Iraqi governorates in tribute of this glorious day.

The murder of unarmed Iraqi POWs was no doubt an expression of the Iranian regime's desire to avenge its defeat in the battlefront at the hands of Iraqi forces who had been controlling a large slice of Iranian territory in defence of Iraq and in an attempt to destroy Iran's war machine and undermine its regime's potential and plans for invasion, aggression and expansionism.

The killing of Iraqi POWs in 1982 is but one in a series of atrocities by the Iranians who shot prisoners at Gorgan camp before the very eyes of three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The crime shocked Arab, Islamic and world public opinion as it reflected the Iranian regime's disregard for international norms, particularly the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war. Besides, it showed the Iranian regime's departure from Islamic teachings in this regard.

Other crimes against Iraqi POWs were on Spetember 9, 1983 and February 23, 1984 when Iranian troops killed tens of Iraqi soldiers just as they were captured.

On March 15, 1984, Iranian troops shot a number of Iraqi POWs during the east of al-Basrah battles.

The regime yet added another crime when troops killed scores of Iraqi POWs in Mawat [name as received], in the northern battlefront, on May 18, 1988.

The Iraqis then have all the reasons to be very much concerned about their fellow countrymen. Iraqi POWs have been killed under the nose of Red Cross representatives. A number of POWs who have returned to Iraq told appalling stories of the dilemma Iraqi POWs are facing in Iranian camps.

Remembering these crimes, the world public opinion should press for an end to the plight of remaining Iraqi POWs in Iran and prevent a repeat of the crimes committed against them.

The Geneva Conventions stipulate that a quick repatriation of POWs must be carried out once a war ends, and that they must not be used as a bargaining card during peace talks.

Iran's reluctance to consider this issue has in fact done a lot harm to the Gulf peace negotiations. Besides, Iran has violated the accord on direct peace talks. If and when it behaves otherwise, it will contribute to the process of confidence building beteen the two countries and thus help the peace talks move on again to implement the whole UN Resolution 598.

Iran must end its deceptive moves and hostilities and start a new phase, break the deadlock and end POW ordeal.

General Ibrahim Attends Awards Ceremony

JN0112180391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, awarded the martyr's insignia to a group of martyrs' families on the anniversary of the day of the most honorable ones. He did so on behalf of Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

The RCC vice chairman conveyed leader Saddam Husayn's greetings to the martyrs' families, and through them, to all the martyrs of Iraq. He also conveyed his excellency's pride in these families' continued sacrifice to contribute to proud Iraq's march and to keep banner of "God is Great" fluttering high in the sky of the dear homeland.

Staff Gen. 'Izzat Ibrahim said: When we mark Martyr's Day, we renew the pledge we have made to ourselves, regardless whether we are leaders or ordinary citizens in the people's giant march. This is in order to make that day an eternal one of strength, pride, and a blessed memorial to those who offered the dearest they had; namely, their pure souls, as an offering to great Iraq and in defense of its shining honor and its dear sovereignty. He added: They paved the way of struggle for us with their pure blood and bodies to enable Iraq and its loyal people to continue their march on the path of cultural progress through jihad, construction, and great sacrifices and to make a prosperous future and honorable life.

He also said that the spirit of jihad left by those righteous martyrs has been a source of power for the sons and has become a way of life. They preserve all the noble values of Iraq's people through this and become the Arab nation's vanguards to achieve its noble goals set for it by God—goals which will be achieved at the hands of the faithful, sincere, and strong men; men who are carrying the great message of principles, who are preserving trust, who are safeguarding honor, and who are carrying the banner.

Concluding, the RCC vice chairman called on the martyrs' families to take care of their sons in view of the standing of their fathers to enable these sons to play their fathers' role so that Iraq can play its historic role in the Arab nation's struggle and its prominent position in the march of human civilization. The awards ceremony was attended by Kamil Yasin Rashid and Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Regional Command members; Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; the Army chief of staff; and a number of Armed Force General Command members.

Finance Minister Discusses Banks, Stock Exchange

JN3011211091 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far by Mahdi al-Yasiri in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Yasiri] What are the key components of the ministry's plan to put its program into practice?

[Ja'far] The ministry's plan of action for 1991 seeks to achieve the following:

1—Repairing the damage caused by the aggressive war and the chapter of treachery and treason. The rehabilitation program calls for a quick, comprehensive campaign for all 254 departments that were totally or partially destroyed. The rehabilitation process includes:

A—Replacing the records that have either been destroyed or burned.

B—Retrieval of destroyed data and indexes from the central offices where they were saved on computers or microfilm; replacing the machinery, equipment, and damaged furniture; and reshuffling staff of government departments with a view to rejuvenating them and filling the shortfall that has developed in some of them. Only a building of al-Rafidayn Bank, which suffered considerable damage, remains to be repaired. The bank is working on it.

2—Streamlining procedure and methods of work, to enable the ministry to execute its principal tasks. [passage omitted]

[Al-Yasiri] Could you shed light on the hitherto unknown aspects of the operation of the Socialist Bank?

[Ja'far] The Socialist Bank has almost completed arrangements for starting operations. The site has been chosen and staff appointed. All the equipment required for it to begin offering services in the categories specified by the 1991 Revolution Command Council's Decision 183 is installed. The categories include, namely, employees covered by the Civil Service law, the friends of his excellency the leader president, and men who marry widows.

The bank completed loan forms and began distributing them to ministries and government agencies as of Saturday, 16 November. A two-month deadline has been set for returning the forms filled with the required information. They will be fed into computers that have been prepared to accommodate around one million forms before beginning to extend the loans in accordance with a set of priorities. These priorities were painstakingly worked out by experts and technical committees at the bank. It is hoped that before the two months expire, the beneficiaries will be able to avail themselves of the leader's generous gesture, which seeks the betterment of the living conditions of the citizens.

[Al-Yasiri] Can you tell us something about the private banks and if their activities conflict with the government banks. How can we assess this experiment?

[Ja'far] The Iraqi Central Bank Law No. 64 of 1976 was amended to allow the establishment of private banks. The law did not allow the establishment of such banks before its amendment. Many parties applied for establishing private banks and they were granted licenses by the central bank to establish such banks. These include, among others, the Baghdad Bank with a capital of 100 million dinars, and the Commercial Bank with a capital of 150 million dinars.

There is no conflict between the basic operations of these banks and the government banks. The central bank defines the nature of their operations and supervises them. All these banks seek to serve the people and the Iraqi economy. Competition between the private and government banks will develop the banking sector in Iraq.

[Al-Yasiri] We would like you to shed some light on a vital sector, the Baghdad Stock Exchange. How do you assess this experiment, and where it has reached?

[Ja'far] The Baghdad Stock Exchange was established in accordance with Law No. 24 of 1991 to secure an organized vehicle for the exchange of securities such as stocks and government bonds and other bonds that are issued in accordance with the provisions set forth by the board of the Baghdad Stock Exchange. The establishment of a stock exchange in Iraq is to organize and channel savings, facilitate their circulation and their transfer in a manner that will realize some of the conditions required for sound financial management of the national economy. [passage omitted]

The work achieved so far, the steps taken, as well as the regulations that have been enacted, and the frameworks that have been established in this respect show that good progress has been achieved. We hope that the stock exchange will become operational during the first quarter of 1992. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Arabs To End Economic Blockade

JN2911110791 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Nov 91 p 2

[Sabri Hammadi article: "The Most Painful Blockade"]

[Excerpt] One of the most prominent and explicit realities that cannot be ignored or obscured is that we are facing an Arab blockade. This is more painful than the international blockade imposed upon us, and most of the Arab regimes, in one way or another, contribute to tightening this blockade on our people. The Arab League has done nothing so far to confront this blockade and to break it. It did not even even discuss this issue at any of its meetings.

We are not accusing anyone when we say that most, although not all, of the Arab countries have not risen to the level of pan-Arab responsibility dictated by the bonds of the same affiliation and common destiny. None of them proclaimed a stand of solidarity with besieged Iraq to help it to overcome the difficult ordeal and its effects. The unjust and illegitimate blockade imposed on our people is first an Arab, then an Islamic blockade, before being an international one.

Naturally, we are not speaking here about the Zionized regimes which continue to fabricate justifications and to practice overt encouragement to perpetuate the blockade against Iraq while they violate the resolutions pertaining to the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity. We are speaking here about the Arab countries which refused to align themselves with the enemies at Hafar al-Batin, countries whose officials from time to time voice their denunciation of the perpetuation of the blockade, and countries where popular forces carry out explicit political activities in support of Iraq and a lifting of the inhuman blockade imposed against it. [passage omitted]

Shamir Hosts 3 Dec Banquet for Spanish Premier

Comments on Peace Process

TA0312075691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Report by Gid'on Remez]

[Text] The two speeches at the festive dinner in honor of Felipe Gonzalez last night abounded with warm expressions of appreciation for the renewed friendship between Spain and Israel and for the peace process launched in Madrid. Speaking of the future of this process, however, Shamir sounded as if he was addressing people other than Gonzalez. Two days before the date of Washington's invitation, he seemed to be explaining Israel's position to other addressees:

[Begin Shamir recording] As long as our Arab neighbors—and even some of our friends—erroneously believe that direct negotiations between us and each and every one of our Arab neighbors can be averted, peace will not be established and accord will not be achieved. Any attempt to bring us to some type of international conference under one guise or another will fail. No international element that believes itself capable of making the decisions will be able to serve as an alternative to direct and free negotiations. [end recording]

Speaking of integration in multilateral structures, Shamir invited Europe to take part in the economic chapter of the multilateral negotiations.

Not settling for hints, Gonzalez explicitly promised Spanish aid in easing Israel's rapprochement with the EEC. React[illegible] to Israel's procedural demands in connection with the peace process, however, Gonzalez excitedly turned to Shamir: I will not presume to advise you what to do, but as a friend, I will say this: Let us take another step beyond procedure. Let us take a step that will touch on the substance of the issue, he said. What did he mean? Spanish reporters accompanying Gonzalez heard his spokesman say that he had proposed to Shamir to freeze settlements while securing an agreement that all the sides will stop all manifestations of violence. Shamir's aides denied that such a thing was raised in their talk. Perhaps Gonzalez will make a more explicit, even blunt statement at the news conference he will hold at the end of his visit.

Gonzalez Urges End to Settlements

TA0312140291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Report by Esti Schreck]

[Excerpt] If peace is to be considered, the issue of the territories must unavoidably be considered too. Mutual trust must be forged between parties convening around the negotiating table, and any act indicating that the territorial problem is irresolvable should be avoided. Those observations were made by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at an extraordinary meeting of the Labor Bureau. For the sake of the continuation of the peace process, he said, the continuation of the settlement process must be stopped.

[Gonzalez speaks Spanish, followed by Schreck's translation] Israel, counsels the Spanish prime minister, should take the initiative by launching a peace offensive. It should put on the negotiating table terms that guarantee full peace for Israel while presenting a positive plan allowing the peace process to continue.

Gonzalez, who said that the Labor has been in opposition far too long, stressed that Spain honors UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and wishes to see these resolutions implemented and expanded [yurhevu]. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez Promises Aid in Peace Process

TA0212182491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was received in the Knesset this afternoon and had his first opportunity to state publicly his views on the Middle East. Gid'on Remez reports from the Knesset:

[Begin Remez recording] Immediately after Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez laid a wreath at the memorial in front of the Knesset and before he was received by the Knesset speaker in the plenum, the Spanish guest made his first public statement on the continuation of the peace process which began in Madrid. Mr. Shilansky presented him to the Parliamentary Friendship Society with Spain, explaining the pressures with which Israel has to contend during the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez expressed his pleasure that Spain had the honor of opening the process but made it clear that the process would have to carry the hope of peace to everybody.

[Gonzalez speaks in Spanish, followed by Remez' translation] We must assure security for Israel, and the rights of all the nations of the region, including the Palestinian people, and the Arab peoples, Gonzalez said. He promised that his country would assist and provide reliable and unbiased advice out of friendship for all the sides. [end recording]

The Spanish prime minister attend a ceremony in the President's Residence which opened the events to mark the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Spanish Jewry. He said we must learn from the past in order to work together for a more just world. President Herzog stressed the fact that the peace conference convened in Madrid of all places.

[Gonzalez speaks in Spanish, followed by translation into Hebrew] To mark the bilateral relations between Israel and Spain, we will recall the 500th anniversary. We must recall the past to achieve better cooperation in

the future. We must all build on a joint past in order to work together for a more just world which will bring real peace.

In his address, Prime Minister Gonzalez stressed that Spain is holding a series of events, parades, and seminars on the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

Officials View Hostage Negotiations Progress

Arens—'Understanding' With UN Chief

TA0212195791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in Jerusalem "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, is there a draft, or an agreement, or an understanding today with the UN secretary general on the possibility of a release of Israeli POW's, bodies, or information on navigator Ron Arad?

[Arens] There is an understanding with the UN secretary general. I do not know if he has 100 percent control over all the moves, so an understanding with him is not enough. He also must reach an understanding with those who are holding Ron Arad, and I hope that he has reached such an understanding.

[Shlonsky] Is your optimism based on something? Do you understand there is some sort of dialogue between the secretary general and Hizballah and that he has positive answers?

[Arens] I tried not to sound optimistic because we have learned already that we have to be very careful, but we are making all possible efforts to reach some sort of breakthrough.

[Shlonsky] Would it be a surprise if information on Ron Arad arrives in the coming days?

[Arens] Any information on Ron Arad will be a pleasant surprise.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, I would like to ask you about yesterday's attack in 'Ofra. [Jerusalem Israel Television in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 2 December reports that "Tzvi Klein, the 'Ofra settler wounded last night when shots were fired at his car, died tonight."] What are you telling the inhabitants of 'Ofra who tell you: We cannot travel freely and in safety on the roads in Judaea and Samaria?

[Arens] First, I must point out—and I believe it is a source of pride to each of us—that the settlers in Judaea and Samaria are travelling; they are doing so every day and every evening. The children travel....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] You have just come from the area. You passed through the Tapuah junction and the site of yesterday's attack. It is not a safe journey.

[Arens] But the people are travelling because we recognize our right to this country. Nobody will undermine our settlement in this country; no murderer, no terrorist will do it. We will overcome even those murderers, as we have done with others in the past.

Shlonsky] Have you taken any measures in the wake of yesterday's attack?

[Arens] We have imposed a curfew on al-Birah, Ramallah, and their environs. We are now conducting a manhunt for the perpetrators of the attack. We also will take a number of steps to increase safety along the route.

Lubrani—'Certain Degree of Progress'

TA0312070391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Progress was made recently in contacts on the fate of the three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers missing in the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub: Zekhariya Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz. This statement was made yesterday by Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli team negotiating the release of POW's and MIA's: "We have proof that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is tending to the problem of the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's and that a certain degree of progress has been achieved," Lubrani said in an interview with HA'ARETZ.

Asked whether Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has responded favorably to Israel's request to allow an international force to search the al-Sultan Ya'qub area for the three missing servicemen, he said: "The request was relayed, but it is unclear whether they are in al-Sultan Ya'qub or somewhere else. Syria holds the key to the whereabouts of the three, and the people who are handling the issue have made progress." Asked whether Israel knows if the three MIA's are alive, Lubrani replied: "They are alive, as far as we are concerned, as long as there is no information about them." [passage omitted]

A Shiite element told AFP yesterday that Giandomenico Picco, the UN secretary general's envoy, had advised his interlocutors from Islamic organizations that the abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd will be released between 10 and 20 December, following the release of the two American hostages, Alann Steen and Terry Anderson. In recent days, Picco visited Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. According to the senior Shiite source, Israel handed him a videocassette showing Shaykh 'Ubayd at his place of detention in Israel. Uri Lubrani said that Israel will release Shaykh 'Ubayd only after all our POW's return home and after we receive full information about our MIA's.

Hizballah leaders yesterday announced on the organization's radio station in Ba'labakk in northern Lebanon that Israel is about to release 200 detainees in exchange

for the remains of two IDF soldiers and information about a live Israeli POW, probably Air Force navigator Ron Arad. [passage omitted]

Uri Lubrani said in reaction that Israel will release no Shiite detainees as long as there is no agreement that includes the IDF's POW's and MIA's. "Israel's gesture, whereby 25 detainees were released from al-Khiyam prison two days ago, has resulted in progress. The release did not fall into a void," he stated.

"The process has not been exhausted yet. It is a long and complicated process. A deal for the release of the Western hostages and the Israeli POW's and MIA's is in the making." Lubrani estimated that by Christmas, all the POW's and hostages—both Israeli and Western—will be freed. "We are waiting for complementary information about Ron Arad in the very near future," he added.

Lubrani Denies Intention To Withdraw From Jazzin

TA0312075891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, has denied various reports emanating from Lebanon that the United States has obtained Israeli consent to withdraw from Jazzin for a trial period. Speaking on the Voice of the South radio station, Lubrani said that Israel does not intend to raise the issue of Jazzin in Washington and that if it is raised by the Lebanese, Israel will refer them to the SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander. This was reported by Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north.

'Sources' See Possible U.S. Postponement of Talks

TA0312094491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 91 p A1

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jerusalem sources said yesterday that the United States may seek to postpone the bilateral talks by a day or two to emphasize that Israel cannot dictate the date of the talks to the other parties.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert raised the possibility that the Arab delegations may not wait for the arrival of the Israeli delegation and may leave Washington before the end of the week.

Senior officials at the Prime Minister's Office and at the Foreign Ministry, however, believe that the Arabs will accede to a U.S. request to wait until the beginning of next week, meanwhile receiving favorable publicity in the U.S. media. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Discusses Intifadah, Peace Process

TA0212170191 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Text] [Reshef] First, do you agree with the view that with some effort we could uproot the intifadah, but that we are not interested in doing so?

[Ben-Aharon] No, that is inconceivable. I am sure that the chief of staff and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] want to do everything they can to uproot the intifadah. Perhaps what we have to do is to invest more effort. This morning, I heard on the radio the outcry by the settlers demonstrating outside the prime minister's home, and I must admit it breaks our hearts. How much can we put up with?

[Reshef] I would like to ask you also about our first guest, Yitzhaq Levi, the National Religious Party [NRP] secretary general. Did you manage to hear him?

[Ben-Aharon] I heard him.

[Reshef] Did you get the impression that we are on the eve of early elections, or will another formula be found to bridge the gaps?

[Ben-Aharon] I have not been dealing with that, and I admit that I do not even have the details and the compromise proposed by Minister Nisim [over special allocations for the ultra-Orthodox parties which the NRP opposes and over which it has threatened to bring down the government]. I can only say that from my viewpoint, I hope a solution will be found because this is not the time for elections. I hope that people will remain sensible and an acceptable formula to resolve the issue will be found quickly so that we can go on with the important work, and first and foremost, the peace process.

[Reshef] Let us now go on to the political issue. It is now clear that the Israeli delegation will not present itself in Washington on 4 December.

[Ben-Aharon] That is correct.

[Reshef] There was some doubt. Had we hoped for some U.S. gesture or move to enable us to go on the original date?

[Ben-Aharon] It was difficult to foresee the U.S. reaction because we have never been in such a situation, as far as I can recall. I do not know if any country has ever had to enter a peace process with four separate elements simultaneously, to face such a challenge within such a short time span. We were prepared for it, and we are still investing a lot of work to start the negotiations because that is our desire. We want peace and genuine negotiations, but there is a limit, going beyond which, I believe any reasonable person would understand, would be a

disaster because it would be entering a trap. We do not want an international conference.

[Reshef] What does that mean? What did we expect from the Americans since the Inner Cabinet decision not to present ourselves on 4 December? The fact is that nothing happened.

[Ben-Aharon] Look, 4 December is not a holy edict. It was fixed by the Americans without prior consultations with us, and the framework decided on beforehand without consulting us. It is not the issue of the consultations which upset us, but the reality that was about to take place—an Israeli delegation having to negotiate with four elements simultaneously in the Madrid framework. That is inconceivable.

[Reshef] You know that Foreign Minister David Levi defines the argument about whether to be there on 4 December or not as dealing with a marginal issue instead of substance?

[Ben-Aharon] Each person has the right to think what he wants. I believe there was a very deep debate on that issue in the Inner Cabinet. The fact is that everybody there, except the foreign minister, believed that we must not attend within the framework decided on by the United States, even if we have to pay the price that the Arab delegations turn up in Washington on Wednesday with the Israeli seat remaining vacant.

[Reshef] In other words, you are taking seriously the U.S. statements that they will start the discussions without us.

[Ben-Aharon] No, that is not serious. Nothing can be done without us. We have told the Americans that all this time. They therefore told us that they would not do anything without consulting us. We had hoped that if we were not a full partner in the process, and if it was not done in consultations with us stage by stage, then there would be no process.

[Reshef] That, however, is somewhat strange. We claimed that it is a technical problem. The Americans made it clear all the time, even in Madrid, that if the sides do not reach an understanding between them, then within two weeks they would announce the location of the talks and the timing. Does that mean we did not do our homework, did not prepare ourselves, or is it an act of anger—as David Levi said—for which we will pay a political price?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I do not believe that anger should be the deciding factor in a situation where you are dealing with issues which determine the security and future of the State of Israel. If there was anger and offense, then it was in Washington because we were faced with a fait accompli. The United States dispatched the invitation while the prime minister was in the White House meeting with the secretary of state. That is not what is decisive when moves so important for our future are decided. What was decisive was the contents, the framework under which the United States wanted us to conduct the negotiations. As I have explained on several occasions, it is not a framework which would enable us to reach direct, genuine negotiations, free of outside involvement. Perhaps what is most upsetting is that before negotiations have even started the United States has already put forward proposals and ideas on the contents. How can free negotiations be conducted—we want to see what we will get in return for what I offer....

[Reshef, interrupting] The point is clear, but you are at least aware on the practical level of the damage done to our image in the world, since we are being presented as the rejectionists in the peace conference.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not think that we will pay as grave a price as is sometimes claimed, because it is inconceivable that the State of Israel—a country known as aspiring to peace, a democratic and free state—would have cold feet at the very moment that we are about to enter a peace process.

[Reshef] What will happen in actual fact? Do you think they will wait for us until the 9th, or begin without us? Will it blow up the talks or will the technical obstacle be overcome?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not deal with futurism.

[Reshef] I am asking for your evaluation.

[Ben-Aharon] I am not trying to get out of answering. I want it understood: The United States has to understand that there is a limit to what Israel is prepared to do in order to enter a process unacceptable to it. I believe that if the United States understands that there is a certain framework that Israel can live with in order to implement a plan Jerusalem itself proposed, then what follows will be better and more acceptable, and I believe that sooner or later we will return to the path we started with this process.

Levi Reportedly To Visit PRC 24 Dec

TA0212192391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1912 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi might visit the PRC on 24 December, our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports. Our correspondent points out that the date might change because China insists that Dr. Yosef Hadas, the Foreign Ministry director general, has to visit the PRC before the foreign minister's arrival.

It is reasonable to assume that Foreign Minister Levi's visit would center on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Two members of the official Chinese news agency visited the Knesset today and were accompanied by a Foreign Ministry official.

Settlers Demand Permanent Outpost at Tapuah

TA0212172391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Hundreds of settlers from Judaea and Samaria have gathered at the Tapuah junction and many are still coming. They plan to set up a permanent outpost at the site and say they will leave only after the settlement of Rehelim is established there. Knesset Members Ge'ula Kohen, Tzahi Hanegbi, and Elyaqim Ha'etzni have also come. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that two mobile homes were brought to the site. The Army tried to block their way and a vocal, but not physical, confrontation broke out.

Meanwhile, the number of attempted attacks with live ammunition and explosives increased greatly last month. The number of arson attacks went up 100 percent, while the number of firebomb incidents halved during the same period.

Settlers Leave Following Nahal Outpost Order

TA0312055191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Hundreds of settlers agreed to leave Samaria's Tapuah Junction last night, after the defense minister issued instructions to launch the establishment of a Nahal outpost at the site. Aharon Domb of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Regional Council said that Minister Arens has granted the settlers' request to establish a permanent presence at the location: Fifteen members of the new settlement's nucleus will live in mobile homes, brought by the settlers to the junction, on a lot to be determined in coordination with the security forces.

According to security sources, Minister Arens recommended to a ministerial forum one week ago to approve a Nahal outpost at the Tapuah Junction, following which an affirmative decision was made.

Shamir—Cabinet Behind Tapuah Decision

TA0312115091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Report by Ilan Lazarovich]

[Text] Addressing the 47th Hanukkah torch-lighting ceremony at Modi'in, Yitzhaq Shamir drew a link between the Maccabee era and contemporary times. Mr. Shamir, who sent his condolences to the bereaved Klein family and the settlement of 'Ofra, said that Klein's testament was that of the Maccabees: It asserts that Eretz Yisra'el is ours.

[Begin Shamir recording] His testament to us is that of the Maccabees: Murderers' threats and evil designs must not scare us. We will prevail, and Eretz Yisra'el will be ours. [end recording]

Mr. Shamir further said that the killings will not deter us and that the settlement of Rehelim at Tapuah Junction was established as the result of a cabinet decision.

[Begin Shamir recording] This was one of their murderous acts. They will not deter us from setting up, expanding, and cultivating our settlements. We approved it; the settlement came into being as a result of our decision. [end recording]

After the prime minister's remarks, the Hanukkah torch was carried from the settlement of Makabim to other locations, despite the heavy rain.

Gunfire 'Seriously' Wounds Settler on West Bank

TA0112183491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Excerpts] A resident of the Judaea settlement of 'Ofra has been seriously injured by gunfire. The defense forces have closed off the area, and extensive searches for the assailant are in progress. Details from reporter Mark Weiss:

The shooting happened at about six o'clock this evening. A number of shots were fired at an Israeli vehicle as it traveled close to the home of the mayor of al-Birah, north of Jerusalem. The driver, a resident of the settlement of 'Ofra, was seriously injured in the head and evacuated to Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital for treatment. A woman passenger in the car was lightly injured. [passage omitted]

This morning, shots were fired from a passing car at a soldier close to al-Birah. The soldier was not hit, and the attackers managed to escape. [passage omitted]

[In a similar report, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 1 December adds: "Reacting to the terrorist attack, the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Regional Council says that the Arabs have again proved their duplicity. While their one hand is holding an olive branch, an offering of peace, the other is firing at innocent Jews. The council adds that the reaction to the attack must be a Zionist one, because this is the only way to put an end to the attacks against Jews along roads."]

Settlers Decide To Patrol Arab Villages

TA0212054891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria have decided to carry out patrols in Arab villages where, according to the settlers, terror activity is high and terrorist groups are in control. The Jewish residents are also demanding the creation of new settlements in the territories following the shooting attack last night in al-Birah, north of Jerusalem, in which an 'Ofra resident was seriously injured in the head. Mark Weiss reports:

[passage omitted] Following the attack, a group of angry settlers descended on Prime Minister Shamir's house.

Some demanded he resign and accused him of being insensitive to attacks on Jews. An emergency meeting of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea and Samaria convened last night and called for the creation of new Jewish settlements as the appropriate Zionist answer to last night's attack. They also decided that settlers would patrol in Arab villages where terror activity is high. [passage omitted]

Possibility of Deportations Weighed

TA0312124591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The security forces are studying the possibility of deporting some activists belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] from the West Bank following the shooting yesterday evening at an Israeli car in al-Birah. One Israeli citizen was seriously wounded and a girl sustained light wounds. This was stated by senior security sources to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem. The sources expressed their belief that this terrorist act was motivated by opposition to the bilateral talks in Washington. These sources added that they expect radical Palestinian organizations to escalate their hostile activity against the peace process.

Kibbutz Movements To Bolster Golan Settlement

TA3011083991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The United Kibbutz Movement and the Moshavim Movement have begun dispatching manpower and resources to kibbutzim and moshavim on the Golan Heights in order to bolster settlement there against the backdrop of talk of a possible territorial compromise. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a joint meeting of the two movements was held yesterday.

Muki Tzur, the secretary general of the United Kibbutz Movement, said that these actions were nuclei for the absorption of people in the settlements and were taken in order to develop various sectors of their economy.

Arens Extends Bi'r Zayt University Closure

TA3011183191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has signed a decree extending the closure of Bi'r Zayt University in Bethlehem by another three months after accepting the opinion of Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, that reopening the university would reestablish it as a source of subversion and hostility.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv notes that during the discussion in the defense minister's bureau it was decided not to reopen Bi'r Zayt University in view of the background of recent violent incidents at al-Najah University in Nabulus.

Dani Nave, Minister Arens' aide, said that a decision to reopen the university sooner is possible but depends mainly on events at al-Najah in particular and the territories in general.

Shamir Warns NRP Not To Cause Coalition Crisis

TA0112060191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's associates have warned the NRP [National Religious Party] that there could be a serious coalition crisis if it continues to insist on its position regarding the special allocations to the ultra-Orthodox parties. They did not elaborate on the nature of the crisis. Nevertheless, it is believed that the dispute will be settled this week and that the state budget will be submitted to the Knesset for its first reading.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that Tehiya's Knesset members have been asked to be in the Knesset plenum tomorrow during the vote of no confidence in the government, even though they are due at the Tehiya convention which begins early tomorrow evening.

The coalition's three ultra-orthodox parties—Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Degel Hatora—held a meeting last night in which they decided to set up a common front with regard to the special allocations. They said they had reached the limit of their concessions and that their struggle was on the very survival of the ultra-Orthodox education in Israel.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that some participants in last night's meeting said the prime minister should be called upon to fire Education Minister Zvulun Hammer at once. In reaction, NRP Secretary General Sha'ul Yahalom said the argument was not over Agudat Yisra'el's independent education system but only on the system set up by SHAS which he believes is clannish and partisan.

Labor Postpones Debate on No-Confidence Motion

TA0212070991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Knesset today will not debate the no-confidence motion in the government initiated by Labor over the unemployment situation. The decision was made following consultations yesterday between Labor Party Secretary Mikha Harish and Labor caucus Chairman Hayim Ramon. They decided the timing was inopportune in light of the current activity in the diplomatic arena. They plan to table the no-confidence motion in two weeks.

Decision To Attend Washington Talks Viewed

Shamir Waging 'Rear Guard Action'

TA2811153091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 91 p B1

[Editorial: "The Battle for Procedure in the War Over Substance"]

[Text] The Inner Cabinet's decision to accept the U.S. invitation to the bilateral talks in Washington paves the way for continuing the political process after the prologue in Madrid. Israel's five-day deferral does not undermine the viability of this statement in any way, even if the argument (too short notice) is not particularly convincing. The foreign minister emphasized in the Knesset that Israel will continue pursuing the peace process. From the tone of several ministers, who said that the Inner Cabinet decision was "not negative," one can gather that most of the Inner Cabinet understood very well that Israel must not be maneuvered into an isolated position, considering that all the Arab parties were quicker to give a positive response.

The three ministers, who opposed the cabinet decision to attend the "Middle East Peace Conference" on 19 August, were the same ones who voted against the prime minister's recommendation this time. It must be admitted that from their viewpoint they had quite a solid argument to justify their vote. The U.S. secretary of state saw fit to include proposals pertaining to the substance of the conflict in the letter of invitation he sent to Jerusalem.

James Baker told Israel he wished to ask the Syrians what they would be willing to give in return if—hypothetically, of course—Israel declared its readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights. The secretary of state also attached to the invitation a proposal on border modifications in the 'Arava and, to satisfy the Lebanese Government, he suggested that the Lebanese Army take control of Jazzin—"to prove that this army can prevent any attacks on Israel from that position."

As for autonomy, the invitation suggested that the discussions over the "source of authority" and control over land and water resources be postponed to a later stage and that the talks first focus on which aspects of life Israel is willing to entrust to Palestinian self-government as soon as possible.

These proposals constitute an attempt to invest the Washington talks with substantive issues from the very beginning; however, these talks—at least according to Israel's perception—should be limited to procedural matters. Anyone claiming that the United States is dealing with substance, and thereby undermining the effectiveness of the bilateral committees as a framework for direct contacts between Israel and the Arab parties, is correct. This framework, now stripped of its characteristic features, was set up out in the hope that these direct contacts would bear fruit. There is a difference between a U.S. readiness to attempt to bridge gaps, if the parties cannot reach a compromise, and making proposals even before the bilateral committees have convened.

It stands to reason that Yitzhaq Shamir understands this as well as Ari'el Sharon, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Refa'el Eytan. He nevertheless insisted that Israel give an answer that cannot be defined as negative, but still demanded that no more than two rounds of talks be held in Washington. Shamir also insisted that the talks deal only with procedural issues while emphasizing that Israel's demands should not be construed "conditions." In other words, the prime minister realizes what powerful constraints Israel labors under in its relations with the United States.

A five-day deferral does not gain any time; it is, at the very most, an indirect expression of Israel's displeasure over the fact that the invitations were sent before Shamir's visit to the White House had been completed. The prime minister will undoubtedly instruct our delegation in Washington to pursue his rear guard action over issues of procedure. It is clear, however, that the United States will not cease exerting pressure to shift the committees' deliberations—if they indeed eventually convene—from the procedural sphere to issues of substance.

Even relocating the talks outside the United States—in Cyprus, for example—will not save us from having to negotiate with the Arabs on all those issues, which Yitzhaq Shamir—had it been up to him—would have preferred not even to mention.

Decision on Talks 'Half-Baked'

TA2811134191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "We Have Been Getting Ready for 43 Years, and When the Moment of Truth Comes We Ask for Another Five Days"]

[Text] Yesterday will not go down in history as a glorious day in the annals of international diplomacy in general or of the Israeli Government's performance in particular.

Torn between its wish "to teach a lesson" to the Americans and its inability to go too far, the Inner Cabinet made a half-baked decision that will not profit Israel in any way but will intensify this government's image of being prepared to resort to any imaginary subterfuge to hinder the negotiations.

The "request" to postpone the talks for five days was meant to prove to the administration—which did not even bother to consult us and chose a degrading manner to send the invitation to the prime minister—that Israel will not accept any dictates.

They, however, did not say that. Instead, they concocted some bizarre story that the government—of a country that constantly says that it has been ready for peace for

the last 43 years—"needs to make preparations." (Incidentally, there are some indications that this Israeli request may be granted because of internal Arab considerations.)

There is some logic to Israel's request to hold the talks in the region, as well as to its "insistence" that the talks be staggered rather than concurrently held. However, the Israeli Government underscored the contradictory nature of its actions when it addressed these demands to, of all people, the United States. We raise hell that the Americans do not let us manage our affairs with the Arabs, but instead of presenting our demands directly to the Arabs, we engage in procedural negotiations with the United States.

Israel demanded that the Arabs negotiate directly with it. Now that the Arabs have finally agreed, we come up with the excuse that the lighting is poor and that the air conditioning is not up to standard. This is how things look, and this may also be the truth.

If Yitzhaq Shamir had meant to bring the peace process to a head because of what he perceived as U.S. harassment of Israel, yesterday's Inner Cabinet decision did not supply him with the means. If he really intends to pursue the negotiations, he should go to Washington, swallow his pride, and get on with the job. What we witnessed yesterday was neither here nor there and only compounded the world's impression that Israel is governed by some very bizarre people.

Use of 'Emotional Blackmail' Viewed

TA2911160191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 91 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "The Question of Dignity"]

[Excerpts] Armies are known to march on their stomachs, and nations often march to battle with stomachs full of indignities. The question of honor preoccupies all and sundry, and even Begin said to the U.S. ambassador that we—who are not a contemptible banana republic—will not kneel. And once, the Westphalia peace treaty, which ended the 30-Years War in 1648, would not have been signed had they not drilled an honorary hole in the wall of the hall—which had only one door—in order to enable the representatives of France and Spain to enter the ceremony with full honors, side by side. [passage omitted]

I do not believe the prime minister was really offended in our case. I do not trust him to be a devoted guardian of my national honor. Because what Shamir wants—and is not going to get from me—is to have me insulted to the bottom of my soul, so that he can have another pretext for dillydallying around the peace negotiations.

When I am told to be offended on behalf of the nation's honor, I want to be at least certain that my prime minister himself has taken umbrage. And yet, I have a vague feeling that Yitzhaq Shamir was not particularly sorry about the not-so-nice treatment Bush and Baker accorded him in the White House. On the contrary, it can be presumed that for the good of the nation, he would have been willing to sustain even greater indignity, had he known that these would rescue the nation from an even greater disgrace—from concessions for the sake of an arrangement.

Thank you, sir, it is not necessary, I would have told him had he asked me whether it feels good to have him protect my honor; please protect whatever truly needs to be protected. Because I can sense the smell of emotional blackmail: He and some of his cabinet associates are making perverse use of that misty tear of national pride that all of us feel, some more than others. The goyim insulted me out there in the street, he seems to saying as he returns home with a bowed back. But as for us, we are familiar with his approach, his hostility to Gentiles, and his suspicions and fear of neighborly relations.

I am not interested in the prime minister's catalog of dignity-related matters. I have no interest in the tales of shame over how they told him when to come and where to go, and how they did not smile at his quivering mustache. [passage omitted]

The government's proud members returned from faraway countries into our tiny patriotic haven, sobbingly telling us about how people there had tried to lower their stature, which is also ours. Having thought about it, I realized that indeed, the Americans had not behaved with impeccable manners. They failed to break their palace wall open to create another door for us. However, my preeminent sentiment is not one of the offense, but of a need to be wary of the use our people are making of dignity affairs.

They are using us, through our well-known affection for national pride, trying to saddle us with their rejectionism. They treated the U.S. Jews' honor the same way having no reservations. They exploited their proud support for any Israeli Government and made them stoop to what they regard as the lowest point for them: a dispute with the president, their neighbors, and among themselves—over a political line most of them do not identify with.

National pride—not just ours—has the quality that, if it is not treated with caution, instead of pleasing the soul, seduces and tempts it to do the worst deeds. If the prime minister wants to bring us pride and glorify our name among the nations, he must not play the wise guy—with us or with them. He should go to the negotiations in good faith, this is not to say naively. Let him not worry about our honor in courteous manners, but seek respect for us as people who conduct difficult negotiations while determined to find a solution.

Have we never insulted the Americans? Have we not fooled them and made them face faits accomplis settlements? Suddenly we see the white-feathered government return here with long faces, trying to raise our national

zeal against their personal suffering for the wrongs that are being done to us. So far, they have not moved me.

The government has been playing this chord quite freely. I, however, did not hear the sound of insult it plays. I will not be in the government choir in every song it sings.

Commentary Examines U.S. 'Integrity'

TA0112130991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 91 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "From an Honest Broker Into an Interested Party"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir's life is tough: He has to swallow a bitter pill he himself prescribed in the cabinet meetings every time the prime minister claims to his constraints ministers that the concessions he has so far made are insignificant. Shamir and his advisers tell James Baker and his aides that the quota of concessions has reached its limit and suggest that they court the Arabs. But since Baker's first trip to our region only the Arab side can complain about the integrity of the U.S. mediator when balancing the concessions by the sides. The framework for the talks is closer to the Israeli view of direct negotiations than the Arab aspiration for an ongoing international conference with coercive powers, full participation by the PLO, and under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Whoever believes that the Americans have shown bad manners toward Israel should ask Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues what language and tone Baker used to drag them to Madrid. During the dispute over the timetable, Israeli policymakers claimed that the United States is goading them too much since we are dealing with the fate of the country. It would not be superfluous to recall here that that claim was made by the very same people when the Reagan administration pressed them in 1982 to remove unreasonable obstacles in the autonomy talks. Shamir abused George Shultz's patience in 1987 and 1988, and because of the aborted opportunity to talk with the Palestinians he got a U.S. dialogue with the PLO. Shamir has to share with Saddam Husayn the credit for wasting the period between August 1990 and June 1991.

The Gulf war intensified George Bush's belief that defusing the time bombs inherent in the chronic Middle East conflict over dozens of years is a vital U.S. interest. This found its expression in the enormous efforts Baker has invested in pushing the sides to the negotiating table. The Americans did not give their blessing for the international conference nor the directness of the negotiations. The only superpower in the world and its president, who is up to his neck in internal problems, want to get results and they do not care how that is achieved.

Therefore, the difficulty in reaching an understanding on the bilateral talks and their timing shows that the Israeli demand that the United States remain on the sidelines during the negotiations is unrealistic. Those who claim that the Arabs are trying to avoid direct contacts with Israel are right, but those who want a settlement must sometimes make concessions in the search for justice. Officials involved in preparations for the bilateral talks have said that they have practical suggestions for a settlement with each of the Arab sides. They should be given a real opportunity to verify the Arabs' readiness to discuss those proposals, which are based on the principle of postponing the territorial issue until the last stage of the talks. If the United States now presents proposals for withdrawals from the Golan Heights, the Jazzin sector, and the 'Arava, as it did in the letter of invitation, it will be difficult, and perhaps impossible, to convince the Arabs to take the Israeli ideas seriously. It will also be hard to convince Israel that it was not premature and dubious intervention by a third party rather than the proposals themselves that sabotaged the chance to obtain peace without making a commitment to give up territory.

If after a reasonable time the sides have dug into their positions, there will be no choice but to invite the Americans into the room. It will then become necessary to part with the honest broker who does not take sides on substantive issues and get used to the reality that the United States has its own view. Had Jimmy Carter not imposed the U.S. position on settlements in the Yamit area on Menahem Begin, it is doubtful that we would have had any reason to celebrate 10 days ago the 14th anniversary of Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Had Henry Kissinger not twisted Golda Me'ir's arm, we might not have enjoyed total quiet along the Syrian border over the past 17 years. Since 1967, the United States has believed that Resolution 242 refers to all sectors and has not recognized the annexation of Jerusalem and the imposition of Israeli law on the Golan Heights.

There is nothing new in Bush's Middle East policy except his determination to translate it into action. The public's brainwashing on the term "honest broker" has been aimed at putting a brake on an anticipated U.S. attempt to change its hat from that of mediator to upgraded arbiter. Arbitration (look at the Tabah example) usually leaves at least one side disappointed. If Israel does not choose to throw him out of the room and bear the repercussions and costs, the U.S. arbiter will enter with its own views on feasible, desirable arrangements for peace and security. Whoever expects these to conform to the government's platform should save his money for his air fare to Washington.

Poll—Public Favors Likud for Peace Negotiations

TA2911100891 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The Gallup Institute gave HADASHOT the findings of a telephone poll conducted last Monday and Tuesday and encompassing 513 Jewish interviewees over the age of 18.

The findings show that 44 percent of Israelis prefer a Likud government to lead the peace negotiations. Some 11 percent prefer a Labor-led government, and 37 percent prefer a unity government. Some 58 percent believe that Yitzhaq

Shamir is doing a good job in leading the peace negotiations for Israel, while 21 percent do not think so.

Some 24 percent of the public believes that Yitzhaq Rabin should be prime minister, but 58 percent do not think so. Some 18 percent believe Shim'on Peres should head the government, while 72 percent do not believe so.

Approximately 44 percent of Israelis believe that Ari'el Sharon is handling construction for new immigrants well, while 36 percent do not agree.

About 69 percent of the public believes that Binyamin Netanyahu should be foreign minister.

Contrary to these findings, which indicate a clear advantage for the Likud and Yitzhaq Shamir, it seems that a majority of Israelis are in favor of a territorial compromise and have moderate views: 54 percent agree that without a territorial compromise and the return of territories there will be no peace, while 33 percent do not agree.

Approximately 51 percent believe that with peace negotiations under way, there should be a settlement freeze, while 40 percent do not think so.

Another finding shows sharp criticism of the way the government is handling unemployment: Only 7 percent believe that the government is dealing with the issue properly, while 75 percent do not agree.

Details of Likud Central Committee Poll on Peace

TA2911153691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 29 Nov 91 p 3

[Report on poll by Yeshayahu Ben-Porat]

[Text] A secret and anonymous poll published in the media several weeks ago caused a storm in the Likud. The results of the poll, allegedly conducted among several hundred members of the Likud Central Committee, indicated a clearly "dovish" tendency by over half of the interviewees.

Since it was not made clear who initiated the poll, who was behind it, and who conducted it, the various Likud camps started rumors and exchanged accusations, and the poll itself was called unreliable.

With the aim of painting a credible picture of the ruling party's Central Committee, YEDI'OT AHARONOT called on Dr. Mina Zemah of Dahaf to conduct a survey among Likud Central Committee members. This time, 503 of the 3,208 members, who made up a representative sample, representatives of all factions (Herut, Liberals, Ometz, etc.) and the various branches around the country, were interviewed. They were asked to respond to 10 questions. The survey was conducted in the third and fourth weeks of November.

The full results are provided below. In my view, the following conclusions can be drawn from them:

A. As a rule, the Likud Central Committee is committed to the peace process.
B. The majority in the Central Committee have relatively moderate political positions and do not identify with extremist hawkish tendencies.
C. The majority express a more security-orientated than ideological approach.
D. The majority still finds it hard to believe that the Palestinians aspire to peaceful coexistence with Israel.
E. Yitzhaq Shamir has full backing on the peace process.
F. The Shamir-Arens camp, including Beni Begin (who derives his strength from that camp) enjoys very high support; the status of the Sharon and Levi camps has been seriously weakened.

This is how 503 Central Committee members answered the questions presented to them by Dr. Mina Zemah:

1. Was the government right in going to Madrid?
The great majority—no less than 92 percent—believe so. Only 7 percent replied in the negative.

2. How is Shamir performing?
Again, the great majority (94 percent) gave the prime minister a "good" to "very good" mark; a very small minority (4 percent) said "not good" to "bad."

3. Do you believe the conference will bring peace?
The views on the Palestinian issue were relatively optimistic—56 percent believe so, while 43 percent do not. In reference to Syria, the situation is different: only 31 percent believe so; 67 percent do not.

4. Taking into account pressures on Israel and its interests, what do you prefer?
In support of autonomy 73 percent, while 5 percent agree to peace in return for giving up territories and only 18 percent demand annexation.

5. What happens after the autonomy?
The great majority—64 percent—believe in that later as well as earlier, in other words, autonomy forever. The others are divided in a way that does not conform with the answers to the previous question: 22 percent support returning Judaea and Samaria to Jordan with the demilitarization of the returned territories; 11 percent support annexation; 3 percent are not put off by a Palestinian state.

6. If the Palestinians show a desire for genuine peace, would you agree to a territorial compromise?
The division is almost even: 49 percent oppose while 46 percent agree.

7. If the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel were the last obstacle to peace, would you agree to its establishment?
A great majority—84 percent—would continue to be opposed, 13 percent would agree.

8. What is the red line on Syria that must not be crossed even for full peace?
Sixty-four percent believe that we are on the edge of that line and are prepared to make do with the current

situation, in addition to mutual demilitarization. Twenty-four percent are ready for a withdrawal from the eastern Golan Heights. A small minority—2 percent—is prepared for a full withdrawal, together with demilitarization.

9. Would you agree to a settlement freeze if that is the condition for the continuation of the process?
Two-thirds would oppose, a third agree.

10. Among the candidates to succeed Shamir after he resigns, who is the most suitable?
Arens is first (35 percent), Beni Begin follows (22 percent), Sharon (9 percent) and Levi (6 percent) are far behind. One should, however, remember that 28 percent refused to answer that question.

Foreign Currency Reserves Rise in November

TA0212110991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Dec 91 p C1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Excerpt] Israel's foreign currency reserves rose $514 million in November and totaled $5.08 billion. Half of the U.S. civilian aid, as well as some of the security aid for 1992, was deposited in the Bank of Israel in November. On the other hand, the government withdrew large sums of foreign currency, mainly to repay foreign loans. [passage omitted]

Slowdown Noted in Soviet Emigration Last Month

TA0112113591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Some 8,090 immigrants came from the Soviet Union to Israel in November, compared with about 10,000 per month in the preceding months. Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said that the hardships of absorption in Israel, particularly the unemployment crisis, are the reason for the slowdown in immigration.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh has learned from the Jewish Agency that in view of the situation in the Soviet Union the number of immigrants is expected to increase to over 20,000 a month. There has been an increase in the demand for visas in Moscow, but in practice only a few use them because of the situation in Israel.

General—War 'Not Highly Feasible' in Near Future

TA0212181991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Interview with Brigadier General Yequti'el Mor, head of the Israel Defense Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis Division, by Yosi 'Abadi—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abadi] Brigadier General Mor, is the immediate threat of a surprise war hovering over Israel, over the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]? I am referring, for instance, to the threat of a Syrian attack on the Golan border or in Lebanon, or perhaps a ground-to-ground missile attack, in which case the warning will come too late to allow for preparations.

[Mor] We have to be always prepared for any possibility. We must be prepared for the possibility that for one reason or another, the other party will suddenly decide to try a military move against Israel. We must prepare and organize ourselves for such a possibility, we must keep our men honed for it. This is, however, a routine task we keep repeating to our analysis officers.

If your question pertains to our intelligence assessment of the situation in the near future—in the next few months, or slightly longer—I have to address the full picture. That includes the international arena, which is currently characterized by the quest for peace, for political arrangements; the Arab world, including Syria's place and the absence of coalitions in it; the Iraqi role in the Arab world; the trends of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other countries; Syria's internal strategic position; Syria's relations with the Western world, namely, the United States and the USSR, and Syria's standing as a superpower's customer. In general terms, an analysis of all these factors indicates that in the near future, an event you have described is not highly feasible, in my view. As I said earlier, this does not mean that we do not have to be ready and prepared every minute, every second, for the possibility of an upheaval. Yet, an intelligence analysis of the situation shows that the feasibility of such an event is not high. [passage omitted]

['Abadi] The Scud-C missile was seen shipped by sea, and later it was reportedly diverted from its original course and possibly dismantled elsewhere—perhaps in Iran. Do they intend to transport it from there by land, in order to prevent it from being intercepted, or did the North Koreans, or perhaps the Syrians, change their minds about the deal?

[Mor] I do not know exactly how this shipment was sent. What is obvious is that Syria is purchasing the Scud-C components from North Korea. Another obvious thing is that North Korea is indeed sending these components, either by sea or by some other route. An additional thing is that in the near future—in the coming months or earlier—Syria will receive and integrate a certain number of Scud-C missiles.

['Abadi] So what? How is this significant, in view of all its other equipment?

[Mor] It is doubly important. The first point is the fact that operationally, the Scud-C is an upgraded model—in range, warhead, and precision. The second significant fact is that the Syrians have not abandoned their military activities, despite their having joined the political process. I believe attention should be paid to these facts, which indicate that Syria remains a country at war with us. [passage omitted]

King Husayn on Middle East Peace Process

JN3011072591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1832 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Interview with Jordanian King Husayn by unidentified London MBC Television reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Majesty the King, I would like to thank Your Majesty for giving me this historic opportunity, given the circumstances our nation is experiencing. As you know, MBC is a network for all Arabs abroad and in the Arab homeland. Would you like to say anything about this television network, particularly since Your Majesty was the first to call for establishing an international Arab television network?

[Husayn] I can only express my appreciation for you all and my pride in this great achievement, although we are still at the beginning of the road. I am fully convinced that this is an important, valuable project. I would like to assert to you that we will support it with all our energies and capabilities. We hope that it will fulfill the enormous tasks laid upon it in the future, on the level of the Arab world as a whole.

[Reporter] We hope that as well. Your Majesty the King, we have many questions. They revolve around three pivotal points. The first is, of course, the topical affair of the peace conference. We have noticed that Jordan was the first to accept the U.S. invitation for the Washington talks. Was your response based upon positive information regarding the establishment of peace, and what do you expect from the Washington negotiations?

[Husayn] As a matter of fact, the beginning was the Madrid conference. Madrid, I believe, provided an opportunity to the brothers and sons of Palestine—especially the kinsfolk in the occupied territories, who represent the vanguard regarding their clinging to territory, rights, soil, and their long-standing heroic endurance—to appear before the world in an appropriate manner, which they had been denied for a long time, and to communicate, through the Madrid conference, with every household and individual and conscience, as a people who strive to save their rights on their territory and national soil. I believe that their performance was excellent. We previously paved the way for the process by providing an umbrella for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, when no other options were available in this respect. Cooperation, thank God, was and still is, good. Washington is a continuation of the activity of the conference regarding the bilateral talks—the Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli talks at this stage, so that work would continue in accordance with the well-known bases embodied in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, given that the invitation was originally addressed on the basis of these two resolutions, in addition to international legitimacy. I greatly hope that we will move ahead under the difficult, hard circumstances. Our weapon is our rights. As for peace, we have asked for it, and are still doing so, especially since 1967. I personally contributed to drafting Resolution 242, although it has not been applied so far. Also, there is the multilateral conference, in which many influential countries, it seems, will take part. We hope that in addition to Arab participation, there will be room for discussing what the situation would be like in case the rights are established and restored to their rightful owners and peace is established in the region, considering all the positive aspects that could result. At a time when the Washington conference might address only what is originally proposed in the invitation on the Palestinian and Israeli level regarding territory and claims on territory within stages and a well-known framework, I believe that the other conference, and all these conferences, will end up with one result: Our success in achieving a just and honorable peace that future generations can accept. The multilateral conference could give us an opportunity to discuss the issue in a broader fashion, particularly in relation to Palestinians and their rights, also given the well-known fact they do not only reside in the occupied territories.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you have summarized the whole situation. There are some detailed issues in what you have said. For example, I would like to ask: Is there any specific agenda for the Washington talks, or is this issue still uncertain?

[Husayn] As for us, in the period since the end of the Madrid conference, work has been going on at the Jordanian, Jordanian-Palestinian, and the joint delegation levels. I believe that we have made progress. We will not be in a position to tackle situations only; no, we have an agenda and we have an agreement. So, we will develop and crystallize it to discuss all the important issues.

[Reporter] Will the two delegations be independent or will each delegation go to the negotiations alone? [question as heard] Is coordination continuing on all these issues?

[Husayn] Sir, coordination is continuing. Concerning Jordan's position, it supports, with all its resources and potential, Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil, and the rights of the people, the kinfolk, and brothers. God willing, we will continue to be the closest ones to Palestine and its people.

[Reporter] But Israel said yesterday that it refuses to go to Washington on 4 December, and wants to go on the 9th. What is Your Majesty's comment on this?

[Husayn] I believe that these are attempts, which I believe likely will continue. These attempts result from the Israeli leadership's fear of peace. Therefore, they resort to procrastination and wasting time. As for us in Jordan and the joint delegation, we have received an invitation stating the first date, which is 4 December, and we will go on this basis. Our arrangements are still in this direction.

[Reporter] You have mentioned coordination with the Palestinians. There is the issue of coordination with Syria. There are some reports, which we have read in newspapers, about disparity in opinions between the Jordanian and Syrian positions.

[Husayn] There could be disparity in interpretations. However, we are not talking about the past, but I will talk about the future. We are for coordination, coordination in the sense that we are brothers who deal with each other on an equal footing out of our concern for common interests; we give and take, and agree as much as possible. God willing, we will agree on all positions and situations. The truth is that the problem lies in the definition of coordination. If coordination means joint and collective efforts, then this is our demand. However, in the absence of this, we will have our own interpretations. We always have been advocates of coordination and cooperation.

[Reporter] With Egypt, we also have noticed that the ice was broken, as they say, following your telephone conversation with President Husni Mubarak, and then your majesty's letter, which was conveyed to the president yesterday. Can we understand from this that, God willing, there is rapprochement between Jordan and Egypt?

[Husayn] I believe that positions are close regarding the cause that we are currently dealing with. I believe that matters will return to normal among Arab brothers in the Arab world. We are mere soldiers performing our duties. We are men who do what they can. We do not have personal interests. We might have different interpretations in some cases. However, we work and beseech God that the future generations' judgment will be in our favor and not against us.

[Reporter] Concerning the multilateral talks, or the so-called regional conference: Has a date been fixed for these talks? What are the topics to be discussed? In addition, is it true that the conference will be held in Moscow at the end of the month?

[Husayn] We have received no word about the date or the venue. However, I believe that the talks will start a short time after the Washington talks have gotten under way. Speaking of Washington, we believe that it is a suitable venue, especially for the United States, which is a very important power in the world today. I believe that the attempt to transfer the talks from Washington or the United States to another place is meant not only for stalling, but perhaps also for moving away from the United States, where a large percentage of Jewish Americans now seem eager to see Israel pursuing a more realistic, rational, and flexible policy. Now that the United States has chosen to play the role of a broker committed to rules that must be respected in this process, as well as in any similar situation anywhere in the world—and we are sure that it will try to play this role—Washington and the United States seem to be the right place. It seems that there are attempts at avoidance, procrastination, or evasion. Our cause is strong and just, and we are defending and seeking peace so that later generations can enjoy it and accept it.

[Reporter] I was going to ask you whether you trust that the U.S. Administration is serious about achieving peace.

[Husayn] We are to play the primary role. I have no doubt that President Bush in particular, and his secretary of state, with whom we have met several times, have the intention and determination to continue to work in a fair manner, with a view toward achieving a just peace. The achievement of a just and honorable peace acceptable to the coming generations and capable of survival and durability is, of course, our objective.

[Reporter] If, Your Majesty, we can return to the subject of the multilateral talks. Some say that progress in the bilateral talks must precede the regional conference, and others say that the two must occur at the same time. What does Jordan think? Plus, what are the main points that will be discussed during the multilateral talks?

[Husayn] Sir, the main points are everything. I believe that the horizons provided by the regional conference are much wider than those provided by the current conference. We, therefore, believe and see that it should be held soon, because it will constitute an enormous moral force toward softening stiff positions and supporting justice.

[Reporter] But all this depends on Israel's position. To date, it seems that Israel is not serious about the peace process. Let us assume that we reach a deadlock. Does Your Majesty have a private perception as to how to get out of such an impasse in this case.

[Husayn] We have been searching for peace for many long years. Our position is clear. The world is now calling upon us to play our role, perform our duty, and help in a practical manner to achieve peace. The world is concerned, and is watching us. This part of the world is very important. We have to play our role and perform our duty. Of course, talk about peace does not mean peace at any cost. We are talking about a just, honorable peace that returns to the Palestinians their rights on their national soil, allows everybody to live in peace and security in this region, and gives everybody their rights. This is the peace we are looking for. The region is under a microscope, the world is watching, our cause is just and strong, and our intentions to achieve a just and honorable peace in this region are genuine and sincere. If the Israeli leadership—and I believe that a majority inside Israel are against extremism—has decided to foil the process, then let it be held responsible, and let the entire world know the facts.

[Reporter] I know the importance of Jerusalem to you and, of course, to every Arab and Muslim. Can you imagine any solution or peace without Jerusalem, as Israel claims?

[Husayn] Jerusalem is cherished in the hearts and minds. It has a special meaning for all of us; it is too great to be simply considered part of a process. Jerusalem is for all Muslims and all those who believe in God. Naturally, there is great importance attached to Jerusalem; therefore, there can be no real peace unless there is a formula acceptable not only to all parties directly involved, but also to the Arab and Islamic world and all believers in God.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, there also is the issue of settlements.

[Husayn] Settlement activity inevitably must be addressed. I have said frankly more than once that there could be an impression that serious work is under way, but the Arab side cannot continue to take action within the framework of searching for peace at the same time that settlements are being established in the occupied Arab territories, which constitute the very point at issue.

[Reporter] Let us assume that various steps were taken and that progress was made regarding peace. What can you say about Palestinian-Jordanian relations? What does a future confederation mean? Will there be a return to the united kingdom? Are there any ideas about self-rule with joint links with Jordan? Certainly, Your Majesty, you have a certain conception, which also exists in the minds of policymakers. Of course, we cannot ask you to tell us everything. We would like only to have a general idea.

[Husayn] Sir, the Palestinians and Jordanians are one people bound by strong links. Both adhere to their identity, but they represent two wings of one body. They practically represent individuals of one family. It seems to me that the Palestinian approach is to establish distinguished, special relations. But the main issue remains that they should exercise their right to self-determination on their national soil. We cannot specify how things will be in the future before they restore their rights on their national soil, and exercise their right to self-determination and make a choice. I believe that, eventually, there must be special relations to be emulated by others and an example of how relations between brothers and kinsfolk should be. I also believe that in our Arab world as a whole, things have developed. At a certain time, we used to speak about one state and one leadership. The picture is now different, whether in the Arab world or in the entire world. Now we are talking about integration and cooperation. Although I would not say that it represents the ideal model, I believe that the European experiment, for example, has achieved a great deal. However, perhaps it should be easier for us in the Arab world to achieve what they have achieved or more in the future. But this is the formula that exists now. Palestinians cling to Palestinian identity; Jordanians also cling to Jordanian identity. When we talk about Jordan, however, we talk about everybody here; all the kinsfolk, all the good people, regardless of their origins and roots.

[Reporter] Is it possible to reconsider the disengagement decision, especially since Resolution 242 is legally—I mean in terms of international law—linked to Jordan? Some parties have suggested this option. They say that the way to reach international legitimacy is through implementing that international resolution by annulling the decision of disengagement with the West Bank.

[Husayn] Naturally, sir, since its emergence, the relationship has been one between brothers and kinsfolk, and support and backing, primarily to save this part of Arab territory, which was targeted one day, and then to work to support the Palestinian side.

When the union was proclaimed, it was clear that the West Bank would remain a trust until the Palestine question was resolved in all of its aspects. We made our decision in response to Palestinian and Arab demands. However, this in no way means that we will give an answer right now, one that might help the Israeli side in any way. We had the honor of defending this land. There was unity. We take pride in the establishment of this unity. The West Bank and Jerusalem were redeemed. Besides, there was a joint long march. Right now, I want to be as extremely clear as I was immediately following the 1967 war. From the outset, we have endeavored to restore the territories; they are not to be returned to us, but rather to their kinfolk and owners, who will then exercise their right to self-determination. We are demanding the restoration of these territories. We will strive to see them returned to their owners and kinfolk, who would then make their own decisions. There is nothing new regarding this issue. The issue is so sensitive and delicate that I cannot elaborate any further on it.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, the king, there are two scenarios, an optimistic one and a pessimistic one, with regard to the results of the peace efforts. If the peace efforts succeed, what will the outcome be? Moreover, you have warned repeatedly of a war, or turmoil, in the region if the last opportunity for peace fails. Do you have anything new with regard to this old assessment of yours, which we have heard you enunciate before?

[Husayn] Sir, I have never spoken of war at any time. Besides, I will not speak of war unless we have a situation in Jordan, for example, which dictates that a war is imposed on us. If such a thing happens, we will defend ourselves with all of our resources and capabilities. To speak of war is not a habit of mine. A war or military option would be the last one. In view of the current state of affairs and circumstances, I believe that the entire world is walking along a path contrary to such courses, which might have been appropriate at a certain phase. If the talk pertains to the use of force, then force would be used to defend oneself, for self-defense, for defending the land and the homeland. This is a duty and a right. If the efforts seek to achieve a just and honorable solution that will be acceptable to future generations, then this will strengthen extremist elements. Besides, frustration will create situations that could push the entire region to the verge of an abyss or, indeed, into the abyss itself. I

cannot predict the results. If a catastrophe of this type were to afflict this region, however, it will not only afflict it and the people residing in it. No, it will affect the entire world. With respect to the phases through which we are going, I am sure that there will be extremists on both sides. There will be people who will attempt to frustrate any effort to reach an acceptable and reasonable outcome. This is the way life goes. However, I believe that the overwhelming majority of people, in addition to the world, support solutions that will grant people an opportunity to lead a decent and secure life, something which we have all been denied for a long time.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, the king, this question concerns the overall Arab situation, which now prevails on the heels of the crack brought about in the nation's ranks as a result of the calamitous occupation of Kuwait and its aftereffects. How can this situation be handled? How are we to find a way out of this impasse?

[Husayn] We will do our utmost to find a way out of the current situation. I believe that the objective, the purpose, and the dearest wish of each and every brother official in the Arab homeland, and of each and every individual in this homeland, including myself, is to tackle the effects of the past as well as the present. If we are to examine the situation of the Arab people—the Arab peoples, the Arab states, and their ties—one realizes that there is a need for us to discharge our responsibilities toward the present and the future. Things will become clear. Facts will emerge. There will be true endeavors to bypass all that has happened in the interest of this nation and to realize a better future, God willing.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, it was noted in your letter of designation to the new government that you stressed Saudi-Jordanian relations; in particular, the need to mend the damage to these relations, which had been known to be close. Is there any way to quickly turn the page of the past and restore these relations to what they used to be?

[Husayn] This is what we hope and seek to realize. In this case, we will consider it a passing cloud. We have nothing but love for our relatives and brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for his majesty, the brother custodian of the two holy mosques. We only have love and gratitude for our relatives and brothers there for the position thay have adopted toward us. In fact, throughout the march they always have been beside our country; they have not committed themselves to anything without keeping their promise. In many cases, they took the initiative in extending support and aid. This is something I will not forget; it is something Jordanians will not ever forget. I believe that what happened was a condition in which we all suffered. We were surprised by events and we dealt with them within our capabilities to do so. I believe that this current situation through which we are passing will come to an end and that the facts will emerge. I believe that meetings are needed, and I am ready and prepared. I demand that there be meetings at the highest levels. I believe that the issue does not require more than the fact of actually meeting itself and all these negative elements and their results will be eliminated. The final objective is the interest of the people, the interest of this people, the interest of the Arab people in the greater Arab homeland.

As for relations between our two countries, they are brothers and the cooperation between us always has been distinguished. By the way, we do not hold grudges against our brothers. We only consider ourselves to be people who shoulder responsibility and then pass away; it is the people in this homeland who will last, as well as the relations between families. In this case, we consider them to be part of one family. As for me or for Jordan—whether the question pertains to the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or the brothers in Egypt or anywhere else in the Arab homeland, or the brothers in the Gulf with its various states, or the brothers in Iraq—in fact, we have never felt anything other than that our duty is to put their interest above any other consideration and to work for their good. Perhaps we have succeeded in some cases and perhaps we have failed in others, but this is our trend and this is what is in our hearts and consciences. As for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I believe that these relations appear to have been shaken for a while; but they will return, in the near future, to a state that is stronger than what it used to be. The same holds for our relations with all of our brothers in the greater Arab homeland.

[Reporter] There is an Arab proverb that says: The more you love a person, the more you reproach him. I believe that in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in the Gulf states, the blame, or perhaps the sadness, for Jordan's position may require clarification from you if this page is to be turned over for good. This question may be something from the past and perhaps should not have been asked, but I prefer to ask it once and then to turn the page. There are some questions in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states about Jordan's role since the occupation of Kuwait. Did Jordan support the occupation of Kuwait or not? You always hear about this and it was written in the press. Did President Saddam Husayn inform you about the occupation decision beforehand? Did you know about it or not? Through this talk, we hope that Your Majesty will give the decisive word on the matter and then turn the page for good. I also speak for the masses and not the leadership.

[Husayn] For the last time, sir, Jordan has never been aware, and I personally have never been aware, of anything that would eventually lead to some harm to the Arab situation. I did not support, I did not back, I was not a party to any conspiracy—this is not something that is part of our values and habits—against any Arab country or against any Arab human being. In that period before the incident occurred, we were aware of some evidence and signs which disturbed and greatly worried us both during and after the Baghdad summit. But our hope was that the problem would be tackled in a totally different way, on a fraternal level. We always have

worked for coordination, for cooperation, for understanding, for resolving all problems that should not continue among the Arab brothers.

Frankly, I was surprised by the military action, especially since we always had said when we met that it was impossible to use military force against the Arabs by any side. This always had been the stand taken by our brothers in Iraq.

We did not support the occupation of Kuwait, the military aggression against Kuwait, the changing of Kuwait's features, or the annexing of Kuwait. We moved to tackle the situation within our capabilities and resources in an attempt to deal with it within the Arab framework, forcing issues to reverse course and then solving the problem. This is the most that happened. This is all that had happened.

Therefore, sir, as the proverb says—the more you love a person, the more you reproach him—we always have been with our brothers, for our brothers, in all cases and circumstances. If we are annoyed with them or they with us, then these issues can be resolved when a meeting takes place and circumstances permit. We hope that this will materialize very shortly, God willing. Then everyone will realize that, in fact, we knew....[Husayn changes thought] Because, perhaps, our image has been distorted. I personally have been in this responsible position for many years. The only thing that I can say is of value in my life is my credibility and that of this country. If this credibility is undermined, then it will be a disaster. It would not have been reasonable, it would have been impossible, for me to risk this. This is not at all in my nature, nor in the nature of Jordanians. This country belongs to their brothers. Its Army, the emblem of which everyone bears on his forehead, is called the Arab Legion. We are in the most sensitive position. We belong to all our brothers and people.

We endeavored, and I believe that this is our duty, to contain and deal with the problem. Our position was clear from the beginning. Occupying the land of others by force in the first place, not to mention Arab land, the impermissibility of this occupation, is represented by Resolution No. 242 and other problems in this world. This has been our position from the beginning. We support brotherhood, cooperation, solidarity, integration, and the replacement of doubt by trust and constructive work that makes us all proud to be soldiers, to be members of one family, a strong family, God willing, in this world.

[Reporter] God willing, are there any attempts being made to hold an Arab summit or mini-summit? It is being said that there are discussions about a seven-state summit. Are there any serious moves in this direction?

[Husayn] Any meeting will have a good result, God willing. There has been talk about....[Husayn changes thought] Perhaps there will be opportunities shortly that will allow Arab leaders to meet.

[Reporter] The Islamic summit, God willing?

[Husayn] God willing.

[Reporter] Allow me, Your Majesty, to move on to domestic issues. Was the recent government change just the beginning of changes? What did it change in terms of internal and foreign polices, and why was it done now at this particular point in time?

[Reporter] No, sir. It is not the beginning of a comprehensive change at all. If what is meant is the issue of democracy, then we are committed to it and we wish it. We are of the view that the first steps could entail a great many problems, but this is the path we have chosen to tread and we will tread it, God willing.

Naturally, after the decision of disengagement with the West Bank, we decided to hold elections. At that time, and shortly after we made that decision, we felt the first economic shock created by our position and responsibilities and our reality. Everything that affected our brothers and people in Palestine reflected upon us. We went ahead with the issue of elections. We had made this decision with conviction. These elections would not have been possible before the legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank. Then came the issue of the National Charter. A royal commission was formed at which people ranging from the extreme left to the extreme right met and held discussions. The results made us proud in every sense of the word. However, it has so far not been crystallized into reality in our life in terms of political pluralism and so forth.

And then, all of us in this Arab world were taken by surprise by new events, events which have left their mark on us. This also affected political moves. At a certain point in time, for example, we demanded a linkage and that the Palestine question be accorded the same due attention given to all other world issues. Right now, this question is in the limelight. Similarly, efforts are being made to resolve it. Developments have accelerated. Even our domestic agenda has been upstaged by events. It was inevitable for me to personally consider even my own position. Consequently, we decided to launch a great national gathering and to ask all people, our kinfolk and brothers, to decide. We made a move in the direction of political action. At the same time, we engaged ourselves in an attempt to heal the wounds, to rebuild, and to reorganize. As a matter of fact, we worked within this context during that phase. Our strong hope is for the National Charter to develop into tangible realities in our lives. Consequently, the people are bound to decide who will represent them in the future in light of the new realities. This is the situation of the government.

[Reporter] This is the second government in which the religious current, or the Muslim Brotherhood, is not represented. Does this mark the beginning of a confrontation between the government and the opposition, if we are to call it opposition? If such a confrontation were to take place, do you believe then that the parliament

would have to be dissolved and that elections would have to be held to seek the judgment of the people?

[Husayn] When the National Charter is translated into a reality affecting our life, this, of course, will cause the elections to be held on schedule. The current House term is now two years old. Certain circumstances might dictate the holding of early elections. The people are the arbitrator on performance, be it the performance of the cabinet or of the parliamentary life represented by the House of Representatives, which was elected by the people in the first practice of such a right after the reasons preventing the holding of such elections had been removed. My position dictates that I demonstrate a keenness to ensure that no party encroaches on the powers of another party, that the executive authority does not encroach on the powers of the legislative authority, and that neither of the two authorities encroaches upon the powers of the judiciary. Likewise, I am eager to ensure that the march forges ahead, under the care and with the blessing of all. It is my belief that the people will be the judge of good performance, or the lack of it. Consequently, they will continuously push forward the elements that represent them. This will demonstrate the sense of responsibility required to play such a role and to have such an honor.

[Reporter] Recently, probably over the past three or four months, it has become clear that there has been a change in the Jordanian political map. I am talking about the masses refraining from extremism, returning to rationality and balance, and rejecting hardline approaches. How do you explain this change? And how was it brought about?

[Husayn] It is the very democratic practice, sir. I believe that this is one of the most important reasons leading to the emergence of these results thus far. Another reason is the sharing of responsibility. By the way, this path is not new to us. We walked this path in the fifties. Certain circumstances prevented us from continuing the march along this path. Then came the occupation and other considerations dictated by our position and responsibilities. I would like to say again that our people are an enlightened people. Our people are aware of their own responsibilities. They are able to judge, to contribute, and to build. He who believes that this is untrue would be making a mistake. This is a bright fact. Hence, thank God, regardless of all the challenges and dangers, the picture is honorable, satisfactory, and reassuring and gives rise to great hopes as well, God willing.

[Reporter] When we speak about politics, discussion should turn to the economy. Can you tell us, Your Majesty, what the economic situation is like? According to the letter of designation, it is clear that efforts will be concentrated on alleviating the sufferings of the citizens and on finding practical solutions to the economic crisis through which Jordan is passing.

[Husayn] Within our capabilities, we are going to work to tackle the situation. This is the responsibility of the government; it is the responsibility of everyone. On the other hand, there are problems for which we may need—and we are almost in need—support from many in this world, and from our brothers in the Arab world in particular. Because again, there is Israel which, until now, has been constantly supported. We have been hit, and the Palestine question has been hit along the way, by setbacks. All the results of such setbacks are reflected on us here, including the latest events and the return of more than 300,000 citizens to Jordan. The capabilities of the country are unknown, except for the human factor and the readiness and determination. Of course, we are trying to deal with these things through our utmost potential and capabilities by innovating, by making the government administration....[Husayn changes thought] At one point in time, we had complained of a brain drain. Let now be the opportunity for reconsideration, for reinnovation, for reorganization, for revitalization of the whole administration, and then let it provide the chances, wherever available, for it to work. The human being is a creative power. We will try the impossible. But again, whoever follows the conditions and news about Jordan should pay attention to its location, responsibilities, commitments, and the challenges facing it, not for itself alone but on behalf of its nation in many cases. The picture will then be very different from what it now is in the minds of some brothers. Despite all of this, the future will bring only good, God willing.

[Reporter] God willing. Certainly there is a role for Jordanian expatriates. As you know, MBC broadcasts outside the Arab world and reaches the Gulf states. Is there a final word you, Your Majesty, would like to say after this long talk to your sons, the Jordanian expatriates?

[Husayn] We are proud of these relatives, brothers, and sons for their performance and what they have given so far. I hope that they always will be ambassadors for their country, who represent it in the best manner through their sincerity and work. God willing, our heads always will be held high. They all have our love and appreciation.

[Reporter] Thank you, Your Majesty.

Joint Delegation Departs, Chief Delegates Comment

JN0212204291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations left Amman for Washington this evening. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the joint delegation, and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side to the joint delegation, talked to our correspondents, Jawad al-'Umari and George Tarif. First, let us hear Dr. al-Majali's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Umari] Doctor, will the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation hold talks with Israel as one delegation or as two separate Jordanian and Palestinian delegations?

[Al-Majali] There are two delegations, a Jordanian delegation and a Palestinian delegation. However, to confirm the bonds of brotherhood, cooperation, and genuine coordination, one of the Jordanian brothers will join the Palestinian delegation and one of the Palestinian brothers will join the Jordanian delegation—one or more, as required by coordination, in order to entrench the relationship. [end recording]

Responding to a question on the Israeli insistence on the date of negotiations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] Of course, following the first or second session, if they do not show up, the conference will come to a halt, but then the entire world will know who obstructs the peace process and who sets up obstacles to peace. Jordan will not set up such obstacles. On the contrary, Jordan is facilitating the process and removing such obstacles from the road.

[Al-'Umari] How long do you expect the talks to last?

[Al-Majali] Nobody knows how long the talks will last. We hope the sessions will continue, and in the same venue—Washington—because no change is tolerable, as every change requires time. We are against procrastination; we are for realistic and genuine action to reach the outcome, peace. [end recording]

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation talked to our correspondent, George Tarif, prior to the delegation's departure. He said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] We are going to the talks with serious intentions. We will not be discouraged by any extremism. We will exercise a great deal of self-restraint. At the same time, we will insist on our natural rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

[Tarif] Dr. Haydar, if you will, what are the subjects expected to be discussed in Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] You know the next phase is that of bilateral negotiations. Our interests will be headed by the issue of Jewish Israeli settlement. We cannot expect ourselves to be engaged in any negotiations before the settlement issue in the occupied territories is decided.

[Tarif] Dr. Haydar, has there been any change in the makeup of the Palestinian delegation to the conference?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, there has been no change.

[Tarif] Is Faysal al-Husayni expected to arrive in Washington in a subsequent stage?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. He is in Jerusalem for important matters pertaining to the delegation's work. He will arrive in Washington at a subsequent stage. [end recording]

Responding to a question on what if Israel insists on its stand on the date for the beginning of negotiations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] If Israel does not come at the set time, we will wait until they come so that we can start bilateral talks. [end recording]

Abu-Jabir Comments on Peace Process, Israel

JN0212174991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that if matters proceed as scheduled, talks between the Arab parties and Israel will continue, although they will be difficult and complicated. He indicated that Israel's hard-line policy does not help the peace process. In remarks to the press today, before departing Amman for Dakar, Senegal, Dr. Abu-Jabir added that the peace conference is the last chance to achieve peace in the region, and if this chance is lost, the region will be in bad shape, including Israel. He said: I think that what is going on in Israel is a soul-searching process as to whether the Israelis believe that they should go ahead with the peace process or not. He hoped that the Israelis would reconsider their intransigent and hard-line policies which do not help the peace process nor serve the region at all.

Responding to a question on Israel's request that the talks be moved to the Middle East, Abu-Jabir said: I do not know whether the U.S. Administration will agree or not, but we believe that the negotiations should be held in Washington, and we hope that they will continue there because Washington is the center of influence. Besides, he said, we should not keep moving from Madrid to Washington and then to a third place, because this is a complicated process.

'Arafat Holds Consultations With Al-Baz

NC0212191191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Tunis, 2 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned from Palestinian sources in Tunis that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat held consultations in Amman today with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The sources said that 'Arafat also contacted a number of European, Arab, and U.S. embassy officials in Amman on some technical issues related to the granting of entry visas to Washington to six members of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations that are scheduled to begin in the U.S. capital on Wednesday.

'Big Increase' in Gold, Foreign Currency Assets

JN2611093891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Nov 91 p 1

[By Muhammad Amin]

[Text] The kingdom's balance of gold and foreign currencies has registered a big increase. At the end of August, according to latest figures, this balance stood at 2,426.091 million dinars compared with 2,086.518 million dinars at the end of July. This shows an increase of 339.573 million dinars.

Figures also show that the Central Bank of Jordan's overall gold and foreign currency balance at the end of August totaled 917.782 million dinars compared with 763.823 million dinars at the end of July. This indicates an increase of 153.959 million dinars.

If these assets were converted into U.S. dollars, the kingdom's balance would total approximately $3.640 billion and the Central Bank's balance would total approximately $1.376 billion.

Figures also show that the Central Bank's gold balance totaled 68.863 million dinars at the end of August, while the bank's foreign currency balance rose from 452 million dinars at the end of July to 551.4 million dinars at the end of August. Meanwhile, the bank's foreign debt balance rose from 242.7 million dinars at the end of July to 296.6 million dinars at the end of August as a result of the implementation of payment agreements. The bank's Special Drawing Rights balance amounted to $54,000 dinars.

The total of the licensed banks' foreign currency assets amounted to 1,503.462 million at the end of August compared with 1,315.854 million dinars at the end of July, indicating an increase of 187.608 million dinars.

The total of the financial institutions' foreign currency balance totaled 4.847 million dinars at the end of August.

U.S. Hostage Steen Released 3 Dec

LD0312104991 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 3, IRNA—Alann Steen, the 52-year-old American hostage in Lebanon, was released at 10:15 hours local time here Tuesday, an informed source told IRNA here.

The source added that the released hostage was now on his way to Damascus, Syria.

The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine in a statement early on Tuesday announced that Steen would be released within the coming 48 hours.

The statement noted that Steen's release took place in the wake of a general agreement for the release of all hostages.

Alann Steen, a professor at the American University in Beirut, was taken captive in 1987 together with three other professors of the same university.

One more American hostage, Terry Anderson, is still held captive in Beirut who, according to several circles here, is believed to be released later this week.

'Ubayd May Be Freed Between Dec 10-20

NC0212203691 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 2 (AFP)—The two remaining U.S. hostages in Lebanon, journalist Terry Anderson and academic Alann Steen, are expected to be released by December 20, a pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist source said here Monday.

He told AFP that Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, seized by Israeli commandos in July 1989, would be freed by Israel between December 10 and 20.

"The release of Shaykh 'Ubayd will come after the release of the last two American hostages," he predicted.

"It was Giandomenico Picco, the envoy of the U.N. secretary general, who told Lebanese fundamentalists of Israel's intention to free Shaykh 'Ubayd between December 10 and 20," the source added. [passage omitted]

Delegation Head Discusses Peace Talks Policy

NC0212142191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Statement by Suhayl Shammas, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington talks, followed by an interview with unidentified correspondents at Beirut airport on 2 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Shammas] I consider this mission a great honor. I hope to be equal to the level of trust placed in me and the members of my delegation, who are all qualified and committed. I am happy to be accompanied by such qualified persons who are experts in their field. This gives the delegation strength and support in what I consider to be a national mission. [passage omitted]

I want to add that the mission is not easy. It is a mission that concerns the whole homeland. In these historic circumstances, the conference is significant and important. The decision to take part in the conference was both national and wise. The cabinet has followed up on developments. The foreign minister has capably and efficiently drawn up our policy and insists on implementing it. This phase of the conference, the second round of talks, comes within the framework of the peace conference that started in Madrid.

[Correspondent] Will Foreign Minister Buwayz join the delegation in Washington to be close to the talks?

[Shammas] All these possibilities have been discussed. Finally this morning, Minister Buwayz decided that his presence is required in Beirut. He has placed his confidence in the delegation to the talks. I am happy to say that he has full confidence in us just as we have full confidence in him and his capabilities. Channels of communication have been secured between the delegation and the minister. I will keep in constant touch with him. His not going is due to unrelated considerations [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, the decision of Ambassadors al- Hasan and Hamiyah not to join the delegation to Washington has raised questions. How do you interpret it?

[Shammas] [Passage omitted] Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan is an ideal ambassador. He is a very dear and close colleague of mine. His qualifications are very good and his national and professional character is very high. Purely personal circumstances dictated his decision. [passage omitted] As for Ambassador Hamiyah, he indicated following his return from Spain that his family circumstances do not allow him to continue serving. I want to emphasize that there are absolutely no security or political considerations involved in the decision made by my friends 'Abbas Hamiyah and Zafir al-Hasan. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, can you brief us on the meeting that took place this morning between you and Minister Buwayz?

[Shammas] I have already commented on this in a lengthy interview I gave this morning. As you know, the foreign minister is the one who leads foreign policy. It was natural to meet with him for a detailed discussion this morning. We received from him the necessary instructions and advice. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, there are Israeli attempts to postpone the meeting until 9 December. How is Lebanon tackling these?

[Shammas] I will not tell you how and what we will do. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] If Israel insists on or attempts to raise the issue of a withdrawal from Jazzin as a solution, will the Lebanese delegation agree?

[Shammas] We are prepared for any eventuality. We hope that you will trust our ability and capacity to deal with such issues if they are raised. They have all been discussed and we are prepared to deal with them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will the release of Cicippio affect U.S. support for Lebanon?

[Shammas] I hope that there will be no more hostages in Lebanon because this will benefit Lebanon, its neighbors, and the entire region. Every hostage that is released will bring relief to Lebanon.

Delegation Departs for Washington

NC0212124291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to the Washington talks left Beirut this afternoon. The delegation is headed by Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and includes Ambassadors Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Mahmud Hammud, Naji Abu-'Aasi, Samir Mubarak, and Jihad Murtada, as well as a number of legal and military experts.

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Talks With Buwayz

NC0212155291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev by an unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent following the ambassador's 2 December meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ilichev] I have delivered to Minister Buwayz a message from his Soviet counterpart. Today's session was not devoted to a single topic. We discussed various issues concerning the Middle East, particularly preparations for the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington.

[Correspondent] Will the Soviet Union participate in the second of round talks in Washington?

[Ilichev] Certainly, we and the Americans are alternate chairmen... [changes thought] ...I mean, two countries that cochair the bilateral talks. Therefore, we will continue to fulfill the mission to which we and the Americans are committed.

[Correspondent] Have you reached anything more specific in your discussions with Minister Buwayz?

[Ilichev] As I told you, the session was not devoted to any urgent matter. I always meet his excellency the minister for consultations and coordination. Today's session was part of our ongoing contacts.

[Correspondent] Do you have any information to the effect that the multilateral talks will be held in Moscow on 15 December?

[Ilichev] It is still premature to give details about the multilateral talks. I can say, however, that Moscow is one of the capitals being considered for holding the multilateral talks. We are currently holding talks with the Americans and other concerned parties. We hope that the multilateral talks will be held in Moscow.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Minister Says Syrian Military Presence Necessary

NC0212191991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin asserted that the Syrian Army's presence in some Lebanese areas is necessary, although it is temporary and subject to a specific timetable.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, al-Amin warned of a tactical Israeli withdrawal that could be made to appear as a justification for the withdrawal of Syrian forces. He pointed out that President Hafiz al-Asad has decided more than once to withdraw his forces from Lebanon. President al-Hirawi, however, asked that they be kept in place until a Lebanese alternative force is found.

UNIFIL Force Removes Tayr Dibbah Roadblocks

NC0112072591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] In a sudden move, the Ghanaian contingent in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has removed its roadblocks from the eastern and western entrances to Tayr Dibbah.

The Army force recently established in the town has been dismantling its installations in preparation for leaving.

Resolution to 'Crisis' Sought

NC0112124391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Contacts are continuing to find a solution to the Tayr Dibbah crisis that has resulted from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] demand that the Army withdraw from the UNIFIL operations area and the inhabitants' rejection of this demand.

Informed sources have stated that three proposals to resolve the crisis are being discussed. Yesterday, Minister Marwan Hamadah discussed these proposals with Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri, who has been adhering to his stand that the Army must remain in the town because it is required to deploy in the entire area and not the reverse.

The sources said that the three proposed solutions are:

1. That the Army force in Tayr Dibbah be put under the command of UNIFIL and not under the Army command in al-Yarzah, as was the case before the 1982 Israeli invasion.

2. That the Army force be turned into a security force instead of a military force and that the Ghanaian UNIFIL contingent remain in the town.

3. That an internal security force be sent to the town should the two previous proposals prove impossible to implement.

Al-Asad Receives Call From King Husayn

JN0212213291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a phone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan this evening. King Husayn congratulated his excellency the president on what is happening in Syria these days within the framework of the referendum.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0212212591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 2 Dec (SANA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to SANA in which he explained that the aim of his visit to Damascus is to hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials ahead of the bilateral talks to be held in Washington on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. These talks, he said, will also stress the importance of stopping the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories. These settlements, he added, are devouring Arab lands and the Israeli enemy is using them to further provoke Arabs and Palestinians and to settle newcomers.

'Arafat added that there are also a number of other issues of common interest that will be a subject of discussion with the Syrian leadership.

Vice President Denounces Israeli Stand on Talks

NC0312065291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah has stated that Israel's refusal to resume the peace negotiations in Washington on the scheduled date confirms its desire not to achieve peace and its endeavors to keep the occupied Arab territories, build more settlements, and continue its aggressive policy to realize its dream of "greater Israel."

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR to be published 3 December, Mashariqah pointed out that Syria seeks to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of UN resolutions and the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and to establish their own independent state. He added that his country's delegation to the peace negotiations will leave for Washington tomorrow even if Israel does not.

He noted that there can be no talk about or participation in the multilateral negotiations before tangible progress is achieved in bilateral negotiations.

Referendum Ends; Results Announced 3 Dec

JN0312071691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Yesterday evening, polling station committees began to count and sort referendum cards, and in accordance with the regulations, arrange referendum minutes to inform the governorates' polling departments of the results so that they can be submitted to the Ministry of Interior, which will in turn scrutinize them, calculate their totals, and issue a decision containing the final outcome of the referendum.

The referendum on the People's Assembly's nominee, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, for a new constitutional term concluded at 2200 yesterday at all polling stations in all governorates. The People's Assembly will meet at 1800 today under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah to listen to a statement by the Interior Minister on the numerical outcome of the popular referendum on the People's Assembly's nomination of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as president of the Syrian Arab Republic for a new constitutional term to begin on 13 March 1992. Furthermore, the People's Assembly speaker will announce the referendum outcome in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Assembly bylaws.

For the past 15 days; that is, since the People's Assembly unanimously endorsed the nomination of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as president of the Syrian Arab Republic for a new constitutional term on Monday, 18 November, there has been extreme jubilation in Syria. Syria has been living glorious days that have become part of its glorious history, which was forged, made, and elevated by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Besides, the course of this history was corrected by his excellency the president.

Signs of happiness were there for all to see. The masses took to the streets in surging waves in all governorates in the most splendid mass cohesion. Their happiness, extreme jubilation, spontaneous marches, and folkloric dances reflected their faith in, and renewal of allegiance to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, forger of the glory of both the homeland and the nation. Governorates, cities, towns, villages, and each and every house throughout the homeland have become centers of mass and popular jubilation. Syria, with this unmatched jubilation, has lived eternal days never seen before when the people vowed allegiance to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Thus has Syria been adorned. It was decorated with pictures of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, national banners, as well as signs, and posters glorifying this great occasion. The masses loudly shouted the slogans: "With our souls and blood, we reclaim you Hafiz," "Forever, forever you will be our president, O Hafiz al-Asad."

[Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1158 GMT on 3 December carries live the Syrian Interior Minister's 12-minute statement on the final results of the referendum on the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for a new constitutional term. He states that out of 6,727,992 of those who took part in the voting, 6,726,843 voted for al-Asad, that is 99.982 per cent, while 396 voted against.]

Bangladesh

President Biswas Receives Libyan Special Envoy

BK0212162891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The visiting Libyan special envoy, 'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa', called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas in Dhaka today. During the meeting he exchanged views with the president on various issues, including bilateral relations between the two countries. The Libyan envoy said more economic cooperation and joint venture programs will take place between the two countries, and the meeting of the Bangladesh-Libya joint commission will also be held soon. Mr. 'Abd-al-Raziq hoped that the two countries will work unitedly to meet the challenges of the Muslim ummah [community].

Reciprocating the sentiments, President Biswas stressed the need for consolidating the unity among the Muslim nations. The president also stressed the need for increasing trade by importing jute, jute goods, and manpower from Bangladesh to Libya.

The Libyan envoy also had a meeting with Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni in Dhaka today. Later, the envoy, who is the speaker of the Libyan People's Congress, was shown the parliament chamber and some other parts of the parliament building.

India

Kashmir Border With Pakistan Mined

BK0212151591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the border with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has been mined. Announcing this in Srinagar, an official communique said that anybody attempting to cross over will lose his life. The communique also said that troops are patrolling the 10-km belt along the border to prevent transborder movement. It said that suitable rewards will be given to those who inform the police about the locations of the weapons.

Editorial Notes U.S. Opposition to Reactor Sale

BK0212153591 Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Reacting to Reactor Sale"]

[Text] Predictably, the proposal of sale by India to Iran of an India-made 10-megawatt [MW] reactor has caused a flutter in the West. The U.S. has reacted sharply. Some of Western paranoia is no doubt understandable, after the revelation made recently by the UN inspection team of how the West had underestimated President Saddam Husayn's ability to follow through his military nuclear plans. Western manufacturers have, through open and clandestine channels, sold equipment necessary for pursuit of military nuclear arms not only by Iraq but also Israel, South Africa and Pakistan. Advanced technology and training have been freely supplied by Western companies sometimes with the knowledge of their governments. But Iran's situation is different: its relations with the West are not normal. Since the destruction of Iraqi nuclear facilities, following the Gulf war, the nuclear balance in the region has shifted to favour Israel. Iran has been vociferously calling upon Muslim countries to acquire a nuclear bomb in order to counter Israeli nuclear capability. Nevertheless, Western fears over the proposal of sale of an Indian reactor seem largely unfounded. The proposal has not been accepted by either side yet. The acquisition of a research reactor alone cannot give Iran military nuclear capablity. Besides, the high cost reprocessing facility Iran does not possess and cannot set up without the world coming to know of it. Reprocessing would be required before waste fuel can be converted into weapons grade material. Iran, being a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, will have its nuclear plans subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. The Indian Government has pledged to subject its export of nuclear reactors to international safeguards. Such a promise, coming from a country that has strictly prohibited the spread of nuclear as well as the so-called dual-use technology, should be considered an adequate assurance by the West. The U.S. outcry shows double standards characterising the Western nations' nuclear policy. Atomic Energy commission Chairman P.K. Iyengar has pointed out that the Americans themselves have sold a five-MW reactor to Iran. Similar sales of reactors by Argentina to Algeria and Peru have not been forbidden by the U.S. Iraq showed that it had attempted to develop nuclear capability with the help of the Western countries. It is thus reasonable to assume that the U.S. objection to the proposed Indian sale of research reactor lies elsewhere. The export would, if it were carried out, establish India as one of the few countries capable of producing and exporting high technology products. Obviously what the West finds unpalatable about the proposed sale is the encroachment on what has hitherto been its preserve.

Iran

Ciccipio Release, Damascus Accord Viewed

LD0212135891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] U.S. hostage Joseph Ciccipio was released at 1230 today in Beirut. In a statement this morning, the Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] announced the time of Ciccipio's release and asked the representatives of the UN secretary general, Iran, and Syria—and Ciccipio's family—to be present at the prearranged time at Beau Rivage Hotel in West Beirut to receive him.

Ciccipio was the fourth U.S. hostage to return to the embrace of his family after the initiative of the hostage-taking groups in involving the United Nations in finding a solution to the crisis. This initiative limited the manipulative measures of certain countries in their handling of the hostage crisis. The efforts of the UN secretary general have so far led to the release of seven Western hostages, including three Britons. In response, 91 Lebanese have been freed from the chains of the Zionist regime and have attained their liberty. Further, the bodies of nine of the martyrs of the anti-Zionist resistance in Lebanon have been returned to Lebanon by the Israelis. The bodies of two soldiers of the occupying Zionist army have been handed over to Israeli authorities.

Although the trend of hostage release has created the hope that the hostage issue is finally coming to an end, the release of 25 Lebanese from the clutches of the Zionist regime yesterday—and today's release of Ciccipio—are of particular importance, since they were the first practical steps after last Saturday night's agreement in Damascus.

Last Saturday night, the UN secretary general announced through a statement in Damascus: Great progress has been made in the search for a solution to the Western hostage crisis in Lebanon. Immediately, the RJO, in a statement, announced the release of Joseph Ciccipio and revealed the negotiations through the United Nations with the mediation of Iran, Syria, and Lebanon between the hostage-takers and the hostages' governments.

Those negotiations have led to positive results and a solid solution and have met the demands of the two sides. According to the RJO statement, during those multilateral negotiations, after assessing all future steps, a real timetable for the release of hostages was put forward. Agreement was reached in order to remove the obstacles in the way of the the release of all the hostages—detainees and prisoners of war.

In return for the release of the hostages, the UN secretary general has given clear-cut guarantees to the hostage takers. According to political experts, some of these agreements and guarantees concern restraining countries whose citizens were taken hostage from taking retaliatory measures against the hostage takers in the future. The RJO has further announced that during the Damascus negotiations it received a video tape of the condition of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the outstanding symbol of Lebanese Islamic resistance, who has been held hostage for two years by the Zionist regime. The RJO will put the tape at the disposal of news agencies soon.

It is expected that, in light of the unprecedented Damascus agreement, and despite the displeasure and sometime sabotage of some countries in the region and outside, the rest of the Western hostages will soon regain their freedom and the Lebanese combatants taken hostage will return home.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has centralized his efforts to close the hostage file in the remaining month of his term of office as secretary general.

Yazdi Urges Continued Support for Palestinians

LD0212165591 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—Iran's chief of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi today appealed to the leaders of Islamic states not to bow to the pre-planned decisions of the world arrogance on the fate of the Palestinians.

Speaking in a meeting of justice officials, Yazdi referred to the second round of Arab-Israeli negotiations scheduled to be held in Washington as meaningless because of the absence of the real representatives of the Palestine people.

He said the mounting protests in Palestine against talks with the illegal Zionist entity and the almost daily strikes indicate that world arrogance has not been successful in its designs.

The birthrights of the Palestinians should be honoured, stressed the ayatollah.

FRG Nuclear Technology From Brazil Sought

LD0312093791 Berlin ADN in German 0204 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Duesseldorf (ADN)—Iran wants to gain access to nuclear technology from Brazil that it has as a result of its cooperation with the German KWU [Kraftwerksunion] power station constructor. This was confirmed by Guenter Markus, who is in charge of bilateral cooperation at the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology (BMFT), in reply to an inquiry by the Duesseldorf-based HANDELSBLATT, in Tuesday's edition.

However, the Brazilian Government has assured Bonn that without the agreement of the Federal Government, no German technology will be transferred to Iran. It was agreed in the treaties signed with Brazil in 1975 and 1976 governing German-Brazilian cooperation in nuclear technology, that the transfer of nuclear know-how could take place only in agreement with the German side, the official from Federal Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber's office said. "It is certain" that Bonn will give no such agreement. [passage omitted]

The International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) in Vienna also is concerned about nuclear technology negotiations between Brazil and Iran. However, it has no way to prevent such deals, IAEO Director General Hans Blix told HANDELSBLATT; it is a matter for the Germans.

'Counterrevolutionary' Network Arrested in Tehran

LD0212150391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of the personnel of the Tehran Province Military Prosecutor's Office, members of a large network involved in administrative and financial fraud and embezzlement of state funds [Beyt ol-Mal] were identified and arrested.

The network, comprising a chain of counterrevolutionary individuals, had embarked on fraud, forging of government documents, bribery, the setting up of pleasure dens and places for perpetration of vice, by virtue of infiltrating and establishing links in the ministries and revolutionary foundations. Also, members of this network, by embezzling billions of rials of government funds and people's wealth, had invested in foreign countries and, as a result, are in possession of numerous assets.

The main element of this band was a Jewish-born individual who had perpetrated numerous vice acts by establishing over 20 fraudulent companies, exploiting individuals, and deceiving officials.

According to our correspondent citing Mr. Niazi, the military prosecutor of Tehran Province, the main elements of this network, including a military officer, have been arrested and the remaining members are being pursued. Tehran's military prosecutor said: This large network had embarked on its activities with the idea of creating an economic crisis to culminate in the collapse of the rule of spirituality in society; its members belong to elements affiliated to the shah's oppressive system, who had exploited government resources even before the revolution.

The Tehran Province military prosecutor, in an interview with our correspondent this morning, having expounded the past few months' activities of the Armed Forces' judicial organization, said: 150 members of a gang involved in embezzling and stealing government assets, who were active in one of the Armed Forces units, and on whom 100 million rials and $200,000 were found and returned to the Beyt-ol Mal, were identified and arrested.

He referred to the arrest of the members of an armed robbery gang who by using government resources such as weapons and mission order documents had embarked on extortion, and also another network involved in forging military service documents in return for money, as among the activities of the military prosecutor's office, in the past few months, and said: In total, 46 members of the two said networks have been arrested, and the stolen assets returned to their owners. He added: Members of the gang involved in forging military service documents received sentences ranging from two months to five years imprisonment, in addition to a financial penalty of 190.2 million rials, 35 to 45 lashes, and discharge from service.

Elsewhere in the interview, the Tehran military prosecutor said: A while ago a military element fled to a neighboring country after murdering three of his colleagues, but was arrested and extradited following extensive international efforts. He added: The said military element who had supplied foreigners with military intelligence was prosecuted in Tehran's number one court and sentenced to execution; the sentence has been carried out.

The Tehran military prosecutor described the investigations regarding the case of an individual called Petrosian, carrying a special order by the head of the judiciary, as one of the important recent files in the military prosecutor's court and said: (?Set) Petrosian, son of Yusef, who was charged with having illicit affairs with women, using and storing drugs, producing and distributing vulgar music and alchoholic drinks among Muslims, forging of documents aimed at facilitiating the illegal departure of individuals from the country, was prosecuted and found to be a corrupt of the earth [mofsed ol-fel arz]. He was sentenced to execution which was carried out on 27 November.

Regarding the file on administrative-financial corruption in Tehran municipality, the Tehran military prosecutor said: The Tehran municipality's file, which is part of a heavy file belonging to a Jewish-born individual, involved 73 accused people, all of whom were sentenced on the same level and in one public court, in the presence of 150 people; they were given various sentences. He added: In addition to being sentenced to imprisonment and exile, the said individuals were also sentenced to the payment of a financial penalty totalling 312 billion rials, and 1,365 Spring of Freedom coins.

Nepal & Bhutan

10,000 Attend Leftist 'Anti-Government' Rally

BK2911151291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 29 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist), NCP (UML), held an anti-government rally here Friday attended by more than 10,000 people, witnesses said.

The protestors, including members of the Communist Party affiliates the All Nepal Nationalist Independent Students' Union (ANNISU) and the All Nepal Nationalist Womens' Association (ANNWA), marched through the streets shouting slogans before assembling at an open air theatre for a rally.

The students shouted slogans against a rise in admission and tuition fees at universities and against government "tyranny" and high inflation, while women protestors

called for the government to resign if it could not bring down prices and for it to maintain law and order.

Several leftist leaders including NCP (UML) General Secretary Madan Bhandari, NCP (UML) Politburo members Sahana Pradhan and Siddhi Lal Singh addressed the crowd.

Pradhan said that instead of checking corruption and collecting revenues from state-run corporations and government offices, the Nepali Congress Government had unjustifiably raised electricity and telephone rates by 61 and 50 percent respectively.

"There is no justification for such high rates... without any effort to collect electricity and telephone tariff arrears amounting to millions of rupees from state run corporations," she said.

"At least 25 percent of the revenues from the Tribhuvan University colleges and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) are being misused because of administrative corruption and leakages," Siddhi Lal Singh said, adding that instead of controlling the problem the government just raised rates.

"The prime minister has shifted his responsibility by saying the high rate of inflation was an international phenomena and beyond his control."

The rally came a day after sources said Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was planning a cabinet reshuffle because of the economic situation in Nepal where inflation is running at 30 percent.

Koirala could reshuffle his cabinet ahead of his planned four-day visit to India starting December 5, they said.

Pakistan

Role in Kidnap of Romanian Diplomat Radu Denied

BK0312053291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has described as false, misleading, and mischievous a report in THE TIMES OF INDIA last Wednesday which alleged that Pakistan was involved in the kidnapping of the Romanian diplomat Radu. The diplomat was later released.

The spokesman clarified that Pakistan condemns terrorism and terrorist activities, including the kidnapping of innocent people. He added that some Indian newspapers have launched a misleading campaign blaming Pakistan for the kidnapping. The fact is that that is totally false and mischievous, he said.

Prime Minister on Corruption, Opposition Trials

BK0212164291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said cases of corruption would soon be referred to speedy trial courts along with those of food adulteration and spurious drugs. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport today after seeing off the prime minister of the Czechoslvak Federal Republic, Dr. Marian Calfa, at the end of a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

The prime minister said the government is enacting legislation to root out the menace of corruption. He said the government is implementing an integrated program of social reformation and expressed the confidence that society will be completely rid of social evil.

The prime minister described as failure PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] attempt to organize strikes and demonstrations in the country. He said it is noteworthy that the people at large gave no response to their strike call and completely rejected this kind of politics. He said this is indicative of the people's confidence in the present government as they have realized that its policies are correct. He appealed to the opposition to give up the path of negative politics and join hands with the government in the larger (?path) of development of the country. The prime minister said the government would welcome them with open arms whenever they decide to adopt a positive approach.

Asked about the PDA's insistence on withdrawal of references as a gesture of good will by the government, he said he believes that cases now before the court should reach their logical conclusion so that it will be decided as to who committed the wrong and who did not. He pointed out that he had submitted himself to judicial accountability.